

casuals, American species of circumpolar genera, solely Nearctic genera, and circumpolar species. Of the 118 species of established and regular status, 46.5 per cent are considered to be of boreal origin and are Holarctic in distribution; 21.2 per cent are of boreal origin and Nearctic distribution; 21.2 per cent are of southern origin and Nearctic distribution; pelagic forms make up the remaining percentages.

The comments upon the probable origin of local subspecies in relation to Pleistocene climate are worth serious reading. This subject, being fraught with many deficiencies in basic data, can not but remain controversial. Although readers may not concur with Austin in all phases of his discussion, they must admit, I think, that his statements are well-considered contributions to current thought in this field. Comments under each species summarize the entire distribution of the species and often give some indication of the distribution of related species of the genus, or even of related genera. In so doing the author places the Labrador occurrences in proper perspective in a cosmopolitan picture.

The treatment under species in the main list gives, as synonyms, local vernacular, Eskimo and Indian names where these are known. The records of occurrences are well detailed, together with concise summarizations of regional distribution. All published data and much information from unpublished sources are added to the author's personal field experiences gained during three summer expeditions. Aside from purely distributional records, seemingly all notes, published or otherwise, pertaining to the region and relating to nesting, migration, habitat and food are reviewed. The extent to which this information is new or valuably compiled is impressed upon the reviewer in the case of the Northern Shrike, to take an example. The scarcity of authentic breeding records east of the Hudson Bay has been such that some persons in conversation with me have queried the existence of any real breeding population of this species in that area. Although Austin says the Northern Shrike is uncommon, he cites no less than ten specific summer-season localities and mentions four sets of eggs, indicating thereby regular status as a summer resident in the coastal section of Labrador.

Little space is devoted to systematic comment, but some important notations are made regarding subspecies, especially

in the genera *Lagopus*, *Picoides*, *Perisoreus*, *Pinicola*, and *Passerculus*. These comments often are rather curt. They very possibly represent considerable study, yet fail in the written version to detail adequately the reasons lying back of decisions as to validity of races. Such renditions of opinion are objectionable even on the part of persons much versed in systematic matters. This style of treatment is exemplified in the following statement: "I have not seen any material of *L* [*agopus*]. *l* [*agopus*]. *alascensis* Swarth, but it strikes me that he has not used any of the eastern Siberian races for comparison, and his measurements are too few in number to be a good criterion. Shades of color in breeding dress vary greatly in individuals from the same locality, and while the race may in the future prove to be perfectly good, there does not seem to me to be sufficient evidence at present to warrant its establishment. The same is true of *ungavus* and *albus* (specimens of these two races were examined)."

Most exhaustively dealt with of all species is *Perisoreus canadensis*. The author doubtless is entirely correct in his remarks about certain eastern races, but the distribution of the race *capitalis* north to the Yukon as indicated on the map on page 159 can not be regarded as anything but faulty by those who have examined series of *P. c. canadensis* from various points in central and northern British Columbia.

Systematic comment, however, is not the principal aim of the book. As a chapter in the study of boreal faunas, as a compilation of information on the birds of a circumscribed region, and as an account of a fascinating piece of ornithological exploration, the book should receive much commendation and appreciation.—ALDEN H. MILLER, December 12, 1932.

## MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

### NORTHERN DIVISION

DECEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, December 22, 1932, at 8:00 p. m. in Room 2003 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with about sixty members and guests present and Dr. Linsdale in the Chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for November were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for Novem-

ber were read. Glen Vargas, Route 3, Hayward, California, was proposed for membership in the Club by W. Otto Emerson, and James L. Ashley, 2500 Frances St., Oakland, California, by Alden H. Miller. The Chair announced the appointment of the following members as a committee to present nominations of officers for the Northern Division for 1933. Flora A. Randolph, L. Ph. Bolander, Joseph Grinnell.

Dr. Loye Miller of Los Angeles, President of the Board of Governors, was present and announced that it was his pleasant duty to call the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Club, to be held in Berkeley in the spring of 1933. The committee on arrangements designated by Dr. Miller consists of Mrs. James T. Allen, J. Grinnell, J. O. Stevenson, T. I. Storer, H. S. Swarth, and Alden H. Miller, Chairman.

Mr. Grinnell brought to the attention of the Club, the two-volume book "Birds of Minnesota" by Dr. T. S. Roberts and commented upon it as the most important American contribution to ornithology for 1932. He added that this set of abundantly illustrated volumes may be obtained from the University of Minnesota at the very moderate price of \$6.00.

Mr. Cain told of Mr. Brock having seen a male Snow Bunting in good plumage on Broadway Terrace, Oakland, in mid-December. Mr. Tonkin reported several Emperor Geese seen on Tule Lake in November and the possession of one specimen taken there at that time. Two Sand Grouse, according to Mr. Grinnell, may now be seen at the State Game Farm at Yountville. These oriental birds, of the pigeon tribe, are desert dwellers and have feathered feet, an aid to sand walking.

Mr. H. S. Swarth of the California Academy of Sciences was the speaker of the evening and gave an illustrated talk on the birds of the Galapagos Islands, as observed by him when a member of the Templeton Crocker Expedition of the Academy, which visited those islands in the spring of 1932. The expedition brought back an interesting collection of specimens, photographs, notes and impressions, the latter being generously shared by Mr. Swarth with his appreciative listeners.

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

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION

NOVEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the

Cooper Ornithological Club was held Tuesday, November 29, 1932, at 8:00 p. m., in the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, with President Michener in the Chair and about 75 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division were read; minutes of the Southern Division were read and approved. Mr. William Todd Helmuth 3d, 667 Madison Ave., New York, N. Y., was proposed for membership by W. Lee Chambers.

Dr. Loye Miller reported on a new fossil horizon appearing in diatomaceous deposits at Lompoc as indicated by Albacross remains, and stated that the age was not as yet known. Dr. Bishop mentioned the disappearance of Spotted Doves from his vicinity, attributing the fact to depredations by human marauders working at night. He also described an albino Brewer Blackbird. Mr. Michener told of having seen last year several California Jays which were pale and undercolored. Mr. John McB. Robertson reported the presence of a female Black-headed Grosbeak in October, and Dr. Miller stated that he had seen one at Thanksgiving. Mr. Partin told of having found Marsh Hawks fairly common in Imperial Valley and Mr. Jack Robins of finding Ruby-crowned Kinglets in the Chocolate Mountains.

The speakers for the evening were Mr. A. J. van Rossem and Mr. and Mrs. Michael. Mr. van Rossem showed many of the Donald R. Dickey slides, and the Michaels told of their work in Yosemite, and showed their excellent films.

Adjourned.—R. B. COWLES, *Secretary*.

DECEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held Tuesday, December 27, at 8:00 p. m. in the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, with President Michener in the Chair and 9 members present. Minutes of the Southern Division were read and approved; minutes of the Northern Division were read. The name of David Duncan III, 75 Spencer Ave. Sausalito, California, was proposed for membership by J. McB. Robertson. President Michener appointed W. Lee Chambers, Loye Miller, and George Cantwell as a nominations committee to prepare a slate of officers for the year 1933, to be voted upon at the January meeting.

The meeting was then adjourned in order to examine some of the specimens forwarded from Guatemala by Mr. George Willett.—R. B. COWLES, *Secretary*.