

ord of ornithological activity in the Los Angeles region from the very beginning of the Club's existence. This résumé is exceedingly creditable to all of the very many persons concerned, and especially so to George Willett by reason of the painstaking industry and searching analysis he has expended upon it. Copies may be obtained from W. Lee Chambers, 2068 Escarpa Drive, Eagle Rock, Los Angeles.—J.G.

Bird students in the San Francisco Bay region will be appreciative of a down-to-date, carefully compiled, annotated list of the "Birds of Marin County" (Audubon Association of the Pacific, 206 California Street, San Francisco, crown 8vo, 16 pp., price 25 cents). This has been provided under the authorship of Laura A. Stephens and Cornelia C. Pringle, whose source material consists chiefly of the records of fifty-six trips afield in Marin County by members of the Audubon Association of the Pacific during the years 1919 to 1933, inclusive. A total of 269 kinds of birds are given formal entry, of which 85 are residents, 39 summer visitants, 87 winter visitants, 32 transients, and 26 of rare occurrence.—J.G.

Otto Widmann died at his home in St. Louis on November 26, 1933, at the age of 92 years. He had held the distinction latterly of being the oldest living American ornithologist; and to the very last, so we are informed by his daughter, Mrs. Mildred Widmann Philippi, he retained active interest in birds and in the organizations concerned with bird study. He had been a member of the Cooper Ornithological Club for thirty years and of the American Ornithologists' Union for fifty years. Aside from his important published contributions upon Mississippi Valley birds, Widmann is known to westerners from his visit to California in 1903 and the resulting account of "Yosemite Valley Birds" printed in the *Auk* in 1904. His autobiography, most interestingly written, with portraits, appeared in the *Wilson Bulletin*, XXXIX, 1927, pp. 146-155.—J.G.

We have read through, every word of it, Frank M. Chapman's "Autobiography of a Bird-Lover" (Appleton-Century Co., New York, 1933; 8vo, pp. xiv + 420, 4 col. pls., 84 hft. ills.; \$3.75). Once the reading be started, we fail to see how any naturalist could withstand the fascinating quality of this book, maintained,

as it is, to the very end. Suffice it here to say, of necessity all too briefly, that illuminating sidelights on the latter-day history of American ornithology are in this volume interspersed with vivid, personal narrative concerning Dr. Chapman's many resultful trips afield.—J.G.

## MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

### NORTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, September 28, 1933, in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with about 120 members present and Vice-president Miller in the Chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for August were read by title only. Minutes of the Southern Division for August were read. The following persons were proposed for membership: Miss Patricia Anderson, 2325 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley, California, by Alden H. Miller; Mrs. I. M. Thompson, 1004½ Cragmont Ave., Berkeley, by Amelia S. Allen; Hugh M. Worcester, U. S. Reservation Protector, Box 50, Merrill, Oregon, by E. L. Sumner, Sr., through the Western Bird-banding Association.

Mr. Dyer reported a Fox Sparrow in his Piedmont garden on September 16, and Miss Pringle a Fox Sparrow in Golden Gate Park on September 27. Robert Taylor reported 20 Cedar Waxwings seen in Oakland September 20, and on the same date a House Wren and a Slender-billed Nuthatch at the scout camp near Oakland. A few Phalaropes were on a small pool and one rising was struck by a Sharp-shinned Hawk from which it escaped, so badly injured, however, that it died a few hours later. Mrs. Kelly told of seeing Western Tanagers in the pear trees at her Alameda home. Miss Baldwin had seen a flock of about thirty Vaux Swifts near Redondo Beach last month.

Mr. Harwell told of autumn conditions in Yosemite and of seeing during the last two weeks many Phalaropes on Crater Lake, Oregon, Mono Lake, California, and on the small lakes of Yellowstone Park. At the latter place it was noted that some of the birds were "whirling" clockwise on the water and some counter-clockwise. He regretfully admitted that he could not report seeing any one bird change the direction of its "whirl." Miss Rinehart reported seeing a Road-runner in Altamont Pass, California, on August 30.

The first speaker of the evening was Dr. Alden H. Miller, who during the past summer journeyed by automobile from California to New England. His topic was "Songs of Closely Related Eastern and Western Birds." Dr. Miller's accurate knowledge of the songs of western species specially qualifies him to make comparisons with eastern birds. His talk was illustrated by whistled notes and by black-board drawings. He referred to his keen pleasure in visiting bird haunts with Dr. Wetmore in Maryland and with Mr. Peters in his typically New England apple orchard. Among comparisons made, Dr. Miller found the clear notes of the Eastern Wood Pewee quite different from those of our Western Wood Pewee and more like those of our Western Flycatcher; the song of the Short-billed Marsh Wren very like that of our Tule Wren; the song of the Tufted Titmouse louder and not so clear as that of our Plain Titmouse; the note of the Kentucky Warbler in Kansas very like that of our Tolmie Warbler; and he showed wherein the songs of the Eastern and Western meadowlarks differ.

During the last ten years it has been the good fortune of Dr. Sumner C. Brooks to spend between seventy and eighty days all told on the open ocean, and under the topic "Notes on Ocean Birds" he recounted some of his experiences with oceanic species. His time was almost equally divided between the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans. On the latter he found pleasure in watching Tropic-Birds, Petrels, Storm Petrels and Albatrosses. On the North Atlantic, Jaegers furnished most interest. On both oceans birds were most abundant where cold and warm currents met, with the consequent up-bringing of food. Dr. Brooks mentioned Alexander's "Birds of the Ocean" as being most helpful in the identification of birds seen.

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

OCTOBER.—The regular meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at 8:00 p. m., Thursday, October 26, 1933, in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley. About sixty-eight members and friends were present, with Vice-president Alden Miller presiding. Minutes of the September meeting were read and approved and the minutes of the meeting held by the Southern Division on September 26 were read.

Vice-president Miller presented an ap-

plication signed by five Cooper Club members (J. O. Snyder, Junius Henderson, John B. Price, Isabel McCracken, M. E. Davidson) requesting the establishment of a local chapter of the Cooper Ornithological Club to accommodate members residing at the southern end of the San Francisco Peninsula; the meetings to be held at Stanford University. This application will follow the same course as an application for membership.

Miss Wythe announced that a generous sum of money has been offered to the Club to provide suitable prizes for a "program contest," to stimulate members more readily to present the results of their work in ornithological fields. A suggested outline for such a contest was presented together with a motion that the Northern Division hold such a contest during the first months of 1934, and that a committee be appointed to work out all details necessary in connection with said contest and report fully at the November meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried. The chair appointed Miss Margaret Wythe, Chairman, Mrs. J. T. Allen and Mr. Brighton C. Cain as additional members. Mr. Cooper presented a motion that a resolution be drawn up and incorporated in the minutes, expressing the gratitude of the Club for the gift. This was voted, as follows:

Whereas certain donors have agreed to provide funds to furnish prizes, to be offered in a program contest to be held by the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club, be it

Resolved that the gratitude of the Club be expressed through this record in the minutes of the Club.

A request for field observations brought out the following records: Rock Wrens and Savannah Sparrows were seen by Dr. Miller on October 15 in the hills between Concord and Pittsburg; and Lewis Woodpeckers and a Prairie Falcon near Tassajara. Miss Helen Pratt, from the Southern Division, reported Yellowhammers at Paso Robles. Mockingbirds were again reported near the end of Arlington Avenue, Berkeley.

The program of the evening was presented by Mrs. G. Earle Kelly who gave a vivid account of her intensive observations of the waves of migrating birds which passed through Minneapolis between April 28 and May 2, and through Frontenac from May 2 to May 17, 1933. Beginning with Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Myrtle Warblers, and adding gradually the grosbeaks, thrushes, swallows and warblers which braved the cold days of

the first week of May, her daily totals ranged from thirty-three to fifty species. On May 8, a cold southeast wind with rain brought in such birds as orioles and Yellow Warblers in great numbers and the totals increased to sixty-two species. On May 10, eighty-two species were seen, with more and more new warblers appearing. Decreases on May 11 and 12 preceded the great wave of May 13 and 14 when ninety-two species were recorded, fifteen of them warblers. By May 17 the leaves were out, the Wood Pewee had arrived, and the main waves of migrants had passed. Mrs. Kelly succeeded in giving such excellent descriptions of the natural setting for these observations that the whole result was a most vivid picture of the experiences described.

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

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION

AUGUST.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at 8:00 p. m., Tuesday, August 29, 1933, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles. President Robertson presided and twenty-nine members and guests were present. Minutes of the Southern Division for July were read and approved. Minutes of the Northern Division for July were read by title only.

In response to request for field observations, Mr. Willett spoke of having made several recent trips off-shore and of finding Pomarine Jaegers to be more common than heretofore; Sabine Gulls were seen by the thousands; Phalaropes were plentiful, but the Red were few in number. Sandpipers and Avocets had been seen by Mrs. Faddis at Playa del Rey. Dr. Warmer told of having seen quite a few Marbled Godwits recently; also, that at Point Mugu a great number of Pelicans had been noted. Black-footed Albatrosses near Santa Barbara were reported by Mr. Pemberton.

Mr. Willett mentioned receiving a letter from Mr. Frederick C. Lincoln, of the U. S. Biological Survey, in regard to the present status of oil on western waters and beaches, and asked if any one had recently noticed oil on the plumages of birds. In the general discussion which followed Mr. Pemberton said the oil industry was doing all that it could to prevent oil from getting on the water; that practically no oil was now getting into the ocean from the oil fields; that it was true fewer tankers were being loaded at the present

time, and that during five days of yacht racing this summer the boats when moored showed no trace of oil on their sides. It was the consensus of opinion that few birds, if any, with oil soaked plumage had been seen during the year and that there was apparently much less oil on the water than had been the case in past years.

The speaker of the evening was Dr. Adele Lewis Grant, and her topic, "Some South African Birds," was entertainingly presented and was accompanied by a series of magazine pictures and colored plates descriptive of the bird and plant life of that region. Four years were spent in Africa by Dr. Grant, mostly in the Cape province and Rhodesia, with many outing trips and two long treks into the surrounding country. While her time was principally devoted to botanizing, considerable study was given to the birds in the various localities visited and she had many interesting comments with regard to their behavior, food habits, color of plumage, economic value, etc. At the conclusion of Dr. Grant's talk several trays containing specimens of South African Birds were brought in for exhibition and discussion.

Meeting adjourned.—LAURA B. LAW, *Secretary.*

SEPTEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Tuesday, September 26, 1933, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles. President Robertson was in the chair and twenty-seven members and guests were present. Minutes of the Southern Division for August were read, and were approved after one correction was noted. Minutes of the Northern Division for August were read.

Announcement was made by Mr. Chambers that Avifauna No. 21, a revised edition of the "Birds of the Pacific Slope of Southern California," by George Willett, was in the printer's hands and would be off the press in about sixty days. Mr. Chambers also spoke of having received a letter from Mrs. Florence Merriam Bailey asking that her mailing address for the *Condor* be changed to San Marcos, San Diego County, California, and he expressed the hope that this nearness of residence of Mr. and Mrs. Bailey would mean frequent visits by them to Los Angeles and attendance at Cooper Club meetings. Dr. Miller called attention to the next annual meeting of the Cooper Club, to be held at San Diego in the spring

of 1934, and requested that members give consideration to, and make suggestions regarding, the most suitable meeting date.

Recently, while visiting the Zoo in San Diego, Dr. Miller saw the South American Condor and obtained one of its primary feathers. This feather was shown in comparison with a similar primary taken from the California Condor and in the discussion which followed the lengths of the two feathers were thought to be about equal, but the primary of the California Condor appeared to have the greater width. Dr. Miller also had with him, for exhibition and discussion, the tail taken from an Australian Wedge-tailed Eagle which had been sent to him in the flesh by Dr. W. S. Wilkinson, of Melbourne, Australia.

Field observations while in Sequoia National Park this summer were given by Mr. Michener and Mr. Robertson. Mr. Skinner told of having watched with interest the feeding habits of various species of birds while at Sequoia early in August. His observations were that the omnivorous species were the first to appear at daybreak or shortly after; then at sunrise came the seed-eaters; and after the sun had warmed the air the insect-eaters appeared. This feeding sequence of the different species was very marked and Mr. Skinner asked if other members had ever noticed the same thing in their studies afield. Mr. Clary reported having recently seen more than a thousand White Pelicans on Salton Sea and that the birds seemed to be more common than they had been for some time. Gambel Sparrows were seen September 15 this year on his ranch at Coachella. Mr. Pierce reported his first record of American Egret at Bear Lake; also, that this year he had seen a Marsh Hawk at Bear Lake for the first time. White Pelicans, common last year, did not seem to be present this summer. Pintails were abundant. In early September among some twenty thousand birds seen on Baldwin Lake practically all were Pintails. Dr. Bishop gave interesting data with regard to birds encountered on his trip to and from British Columbia this summer. Vaux Swifts in British Columbia, he said, showed an apparent decrease in numbers. In speaking of the late nesting of Crossbills in the spruces at Seabright, Nova Scotia, he told of having had his observation made in August twenty years ago verified by a friend this year with an even later nesting date. It is Dr. Bishop's thought that the abundance of food has a

great deal to do with extending the breeding season for the Crossbills.

Meeting adjourned.—LAURA B. LAW, *Secretary*.

OCTOBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Tuesday, October 31, 1933, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, with fifty members and guests present and President Robertson in the Chair. Minutes of the Southern Division for September were read and approved. Minutes of the Northern Division for September were read.

The proposed ordinance for "... regulating the keeping of cats within the County of Los Angeles; imposing license taxes and providing for the humane killing of unlicensed cats at large," submitted to the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County by the Los Angeles Chapter of the Izaak Walton League, was presented for action, and on motion by Dr. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Willett, and duly carried, it was agreed that the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club should go on record as endorsing this proposed ordinance.

Report of a badly wounded Osprey having been picked up in Altadena in early October was made by Dr. Cowles. Mr. Sidney Peyton announced that the two Condors nesting in the Sespe were still in the same place and, about the first of September, acted as though they had young.

"Bird Islands from Gulf to Galapagos," the topic of the evening's program, was entertainingly and instructively presented by Mr. John S. Garth. Mr. Garth has made two trips to the Galapagos aboard the sea-going yacht of Mr. G. Allan Hancock, and on both trips has been able to visit many of the islands passed enroute. He had with him for exhibition purpose a number of bird specimens secured on these trips, and also a reel of motion pictures showing the home life of several species, including that of the Flightless Cormorant. One picture of exceeding interest was the hatching of a Flightless Cormorant. A pipped egg had been secured, placed in convenient position for the camera, and the remarkable action of the young bird emerging from the shell was splendidly reproduced.

Meeting adjourned.—LAURA B. LAW, *Secretary*.