

Without a determined effort toward conservation it can hardly fail to dwindle in numbers, not to extinction necessarily, but to a point where it can no longer serve as an object of sport.

Realization of this fact brought about the "Gambel Quail Investigation", initiated July 1, 1930, under the joint auspices of the University of Arizona and the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute through Mr. Aldo Leopold. For three years Mr. Gorsuch has been pursuing this investigation, the outstanding results of which are now placed before us. The reviewer, familiar with the exact place where these studies were pursued, has nothing but admiration for the methods of observation that were developed, and is content to accept outright the conclusions at which Mr. Gorsuch arrived. With these quail as with other animals, the circumstances that control their numbers after the disturbing introduction of a large human population are not easy to understand or to govern, and they are rarely the factors on which the sportsman is likely to place emphasis. It is encouraging in this connection to read Mr. Gorsuch's plea for the conspicuous and generally harmless large hawks of the region. With the facts here demonstrated and with the further studies that the author suggests, there is no doubt that a technique could be developed whereby a practically unlimited number of quail could be provided for sport—if the sportsman, too, could be placed under control. The results of the highly specialized handling of native English game birds show what can be done under private ownership of land and game, but nowhere yet has anything approaching such results been attained where a large human population has free access over any hunting ground. However this may be, Mr. Gorsuch's account of the Gambel Quail may be accepted as an accurate depiction of facts and conditions, and his recommendations should be permitted to carry influence with officials in authority.

As to the form in which the report is couched, one can only admire the clear, concise style, and the total absence of "padding"; there is a wealth of information logically presented in a minimum of printed pages. Mr. Gorsuch has done excellent work in gathering facts, and in evaluating and presenting them. We are grateful to the University of Arizona for its important share in the undertaking—the publication of the report.—H. S. SWARTH.

## MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

### SOUTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at 8 p. m., Tuesday, September 25, 1934, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, with President Abbott in the Chair and twenty-nine members and guests present. Minutes of the Southern Division for August were read and approved. Minutes of the Northern Division for August were read.

The following applications for membership were presented: Mr. Wendell Taber, 6 Rollins Place, Beacon Hill, Boston, Massachusetts, by A. J. van Rossem. Mr. Samuel C. Harriot, 200 West 58th Street, New York, N. Y., by W. Lee Chambers; Mr. Philip C. Dutton, 65 High Street, Stone Staffs, England, and Emerson Ware Stanley, P. O. Box 131, Garden Grove, California, by John McB. Robertson.

President Abbott read a communication with reference to the recreational use of land in the United States sent to him by the National Resources Board, Washington, D. C., and signed by George M. Wright, as Director of the Recreation Division. Enclosed with the letter was a questionnaire covering many phases, including populations and their recreational requirements; economic aspects of recreation; the theory of division of responsibility between federal, state, and local governments and private recreation agencies; relations of other forms of land-use and abuse to recreation; problems in recreational use of land set aside primarily for preservation; the ideal recreation land-use structure; and the ways and means of providing a program for its approximate realization. A committee, consisting of Dr. Loye Miller and Mr. George Willett, was duly appointed to study the questionnaire for the Southern Division and to report with regard to the same.

What might be behind the withdrawal of scientific collecting permits, following letters sent by the Secretary of Agriculture and by the Chief of the Biological Survey to various collectors in southern California, was discussed at length, and the question was raised as to what action, if any, the Cooper Club might wisely take. On suggestion made by Mr. Willett, it was decided to withhold any action until after the meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union at Chicago, in October, and

to be guided, possibly, by the action of that organization as to the best method of procedure.

Some interesting field observations reported were, that the Yellow-billed Magpie with all of its persecution does not seem to be greatly diminished in numbers; that Wood Ibis were again on their annual invasion of this section of California. Mr. Abbott mentioned 77 of the latter bird seen on one pond in San Diego County; and 30 were recently seen at Newport Beach by Dr. Miller. The species was also reported in Imperial Valley, and at Point Mugu. These Wood Ibises are presumably first and second year birds, non-breeders, and their invasion apparently occurs at the season when the adults are nesting in southern waters. In June, on Walker River at foot of Sonora Pass, Mr. Reis watched Calliope Hummingbirds take the sap of willow trees from holes made by sapsuckers. Dr. Miller said he had noticed Anna Hummingbirds and Audubon Warblers do the same thing. Twenty Black Brant were seen at Point Mugu on September 4, by Dr. Miller. He also reported having seen more Black Brant on the lagoon last year than ever before. Two sets of 5 eggs of the Western Evening Grosbeak at Mammoth Lake, and one set of 4 eggs at Twin Lakes, were found in mid-June by Mr. Harrison.

Mr. Meadows stated it was his belief that the appearance last April of the first Turkey Vulture reported from Catalina Island was not due to stormy weather. The bird was seen on a calm day and the weather had been calm for several days previous. It did not appear to be fatigued, and flew toward the interior of the island. In reply to Mr. Chambers' remark that a shooting season for quail was to be opened on Catalina Island, Mr. Meadows said to hunt quail on the island was not his idea of sport, as the birds were extremely abundant and very tame. His first pair of wild swan, assumed to be the Trumpeter, was noted by Mr. Howard Robertson while on a trip to Yellowstone National Park this summer. Mr. Reis told of a flock of 35 Sage Hens having been killed by scattered poison, and this brought about a discussion of the continued use of thallium and strychnine for poisoning. The Chair suggested a protest should be sent to the proper authorities against allowing unskilled persons to use poison in areas where Sage Hens were known to be, but no action was taken.

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

#### NORTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at 8:00 p. m., Thursday, September 27, 1934, in the Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with sixty-four members and guests present and Vice-president Miller in the Chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for August were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for August were read. Proposals for membership were: Miss Ena Hoag, P. O. Box 407, Pacific Grove, Calif., by Laidlaw Williams; Mr. Elbert L. Little, Jr., Jornada Experimental Range, Las Cruces, New Mexico, by Walter P. Taylor. Miss Ivander MacIver, 2414 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, Calif., by Margaret W. Wythe.

The first item on the program was the award of prizes to the winners of the Program Contest held by the Northern Division during the spring months. The junior winner, Mr. Cranson Hopkins, was presented by the Chairman with a set of Dawson's "Birds of California", a copy of A. A. Allen's "Bird Life", a leather-bound notebook, and a paid-up membership in the Cooper Club for two years. Mrs. Junea Kelly, winner of the senior award, was presented with copies of the following bird books: Howell's "Florida Bird Life", Mrs. Bailey's "Birds of New Mexico", Peterson's "Field Guide to Birds", Nicholson's "How Birds Live", and A. A. Allen's "Bird Life".

The most interesting field note was presented by Mr. E. L. Sumner, Senior, who reported the taking of a Green-tailed Towhee in a banding trap in Strawberry Canyon on September 25. Mr. W. B. Davis told of birds observed during a spring sojourn in southwestern Idaho. Sage-covered desert, basaltic cliffs, grassy meadow and a marshy lake provided four sorts of habitats, so differing that 46 species of birds were listed within the area accessible from Mr. Davis' camp.

Those members of the Northern Division who have had the pleasure of visiting the aviaries of Mr. and Mrs. Eric C. Kinsey at Manor, Marin County, have been so interested in the 60 species of native birds to be seen therein that Mr. Kinsey consented to talk to the group upon his hobby, "Ornithological Research through Aviculture."

Mr. Kinsey's spirited account of the difficulties overcome in the rearing of wholly insectivorous species included a description of Mrs. Kinsey and himself commuting to their daily work in San Francisco

accompanied by chorusing young Black Phoebes. Among problems not yet solved is the one of so feeding caged birds as to prevent color fading.

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

OCTOBER.—The October meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on October 25, 1934, at 8:00 p. m. in Room 2003 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with Vice-president Miller presiding at the invitation of President Pickwell. Minutes of the Northern Division for September were read, corrected and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for September were read. The Chairman announced that if no objections were heard the November and December meetings of the Northern Division would be held on the third instead of the fourth Thursdays.

Field notes reported were as follows: A Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk was seen at Point Reyes on October 6 by John E. Cushing, and the noting of an adult and an immature of the same species on the same day at Bodega by Commander Parmenter was reported by Miss Pringle; on September 28, Mr. Dyer observed eight Lewis Woodpeckers at his home in Piedmont; on the night of September 24, Mrs. Allen heard a Poor-will calling in Strawberry Canyon, and becoming interested in the repeated calls, she began counting. One hundred and fifty were recorded before the bird became silent; Mr. Alden Miller reported the taking of a Sierra Creeper on October 21 in the blue-oak belt on Mount Diablo. Dr. and Mrs. Lynds Jones of Oberlin, Ohio, were guests at the meeting. Dr. Jones told of birds noted on their drive westward and said that only 30 dead birds were seen on the highway in a distance of 3000 miles. A Crow which was "paced" was found to be flying at the rate of 35 miles per hour.

President Pickwell was the evening's speaker and his illustrated talk, "Desert Studies", brought the desert and its fauna very clearly before us, especially "those most obvious and ever-present desert birds, the Verdin, the Cactus Wren, and the Plumbeous Gnatcatcher."

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

NOVEMBER.—The November meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on November 15, 1934, at 8:00 p. m. in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with Presi-

dent Pickwell in the Chair and 130 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for October were read and approved. Names proposed for membership were: Adolph Murie, 328 Hilgard Hall, Berkeley, Calif., and Walter N. Powell, Sequoia National Park, Calif., both by Jean M. Linsdale.

Mr. Alden Miller reported having seen a Red-breasted Nuthatch recently on the Campus; Mrs. Mead, the presence of a Western Mockingbird at Piedmont and Parker streets, where it learned to mock the song of a household canary; Howard Twining, the sight of a Crow in the grounds of the State School for the Blind and Deaf. The last-named speaker added that, a few days before his record, Robert Failing had seen a Crow at the same place. Mr. Clark P. Streater told of the increasing colony of Mockingbirds at Santa Cruz and of the presence of two White Herons at the mouth of the San Lorenzo River in October, where to his knowledge they had not been seen since the 70's.

The evening's program was presented by Mr. Ernest I. Dyer: Thrashers and Road-runners at my Home, and a Glimpse of Condors—a Motion Picture Record. Mr. Dyer's studies of the Thrashers began in the summer of 1932 when he endeavored to divert the birds from digging up a newly planted lawn in their search for food. From that time on, the birds have been his daily and almost hourly companions. He has learned the extraordinary variety of their songs, from the "slumber song," audible for a distance of six feet, to the full song which carries at least three hundred yards. The birds' food and foraging habits, nest building, rearing of the young and hostility toward snakes were described, and a fine series of motion pictures was shown, with running comment.

The lone Road-runner first came into the picture last April, when he appeared in the neighborhood and made himself conspicuous by "calling down chimneys" forty feet above the ground. Most of his days are spent at 40 Selborne Drive and his nights in a nearby oak. Mr. Dyer's camera caught him as skillfully as it did the Thrashers, and a fine portrayal was the result. Typical Condor country in the southern part of California was then shown, and then Condors in flight. The last reel showed some superb close-ups of a Condor perched on a stub.

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