

parently Swarth quite unconsciously had anticipated the Hellmayrian tempo.

Of more than local interest is the statement (footnote, p. 455) that "the specimens [of *Hyllocichla guttata sequoiensis*] recently recorded [in the *Auk*] . . . from Illinois . . . prove, on reexamination, to be worn spring birds of the Eastern Hermit Thrush (*H. g. faxoni*)." This should sound caution to inexperienced bird students against recording supposed subspecies from far outside the normal ranges of those races—without the most authentic determination of them. The more extralimital a subspecific "record," the more dubiety must pertain to it, and the more care must be exercised before launching it.

"Part VII" is edited, I note, by Dr. Wilfred H. Osgood. He has done a difficult job very well—for there can be nothing worse in the proofreading line than long synonymies. I have scrutinized some of these, concerning forms whose literature I know, looking for mistakes—with no satisfaction! Mistakes of any sort, throughout this work, insofar as I have been able to determine, are exceedingly few.

Hellmayr's attitude toward genera is refreshingly conservative. For example, he suppresses *Corthylio* under *Regulus*—very reasonable, it strikes me—with this comment: "The structural differences separating *R. calendula* from the other kinglets seem to me good specific characters, but do not call for generic distinctness [=distinction]." He likewise quashes *Penthestes* and *Baeolophus* under *Parus*, which is pleasing to "oldsters" because it brings us back to the nomenclature of the cheerful 90's. (Incidentally, our Gray Titmouse will have to be called, again, *Parus inornatus ridgwayi* Richmond, because of preoccupation of the name *Parus griseus*.) The only alternative in this group I can see, would be to recognize a genus for each species and be altogether done with the genus-splitting! *Telmatodytes* is submerged in the genus *Cistothorus*, for all the Marsh Wrens. And *Nannus*, for the Winter Wrens, is put back into *Troglodytes*.

Hellmayr's "Part VII," I am probably quite safe in saying, is the most important single work treating systematically of North American birds since the appearance of Part VIII of Ridgway's "Birds of North and Middle America," in 1919.—J. GRINNELL.

## 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 20, 1934, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, with about fifty members present and President Pickwell in the Chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for November were read and approved; minutes of the Southern Division for November were read.

The Chair announced the appointment of a nominating committee to present at the January meeting of the Northern Division names of officers to serve the division during 1935; the committee named consisted of Mrs. James T. Allen, chairman, Mr. W. I. Follett, Miss Emily Smith.

Among field notes offered were the following: Dr. George Haley read an item from a Portland, Maine, newspaper describing the discovery of a living Yellow-nosed Albatross beside a Fryeburg pond, the bird's normal habitat being the ocean in the vicinity of the Cape of Good Hope. Mr. Grinnell reported the fact that recently, during a short circuit in Modoc County, Mr. Donald McLean had observed thirty individuals of the Northern Shrike and suggested that Club members be on the alert to detect any stragglers of this species that might reach the San Francisco Bay region. Mr. James Moffitt stated that he had often seen the Northern Shrike in winter in northeastern California, the latest date being the 10th of March, in Honey Lake Valley.

Mr. Dyer asked for suggestions as to the identity of a large black bird with pointed wings which flew slowly and steadily across his view in Piedmont on November 21. The bird was high in air and, soaring in a wide circle, it disappeared. Its call was "kruk, kruk." The several members who ventured opinions were inclined toward the raven as identity of Mr. Dyer's bird, a stranger in our region. President Pickwell mentioned a successful method for the photography of shore-birds, stating that recently while on the shore at Santa Cruz he set up his camera for photographing godwits which were scattered along the tide line. His companion circled down the beach and literally herded the birds to the desired point.

The evening was devoted to a discussion

of the bird faunas of three of our State Parks. The first speaker was Mr. Jean M. Linsdale and his area the newly created 400-acre Point Lobos State Park. Here, between the state highway and the offshore rocks, lies a varied terrain offering food and shelter to birds of the open ocean, shore-birds, meadow inhabiting species, chaparral lovers, and forest dwellers.

Mr. Elmer Aldrich reported upon the Mount Diablo Park and Refuge and told of the 98 species which he had listed during his seven visits to that Park; five more species observed by others give a total of 103 for the area. Along Marsh Creek, at the base of the northern peak, is fine warbler country. Above that, lies the chaparral belt where quail, thrashers and wrens abound, and Bell and Black-chinned sparrows may be searched for. Higher, are the growths of blue oak and digger pine, and at the mountain's top, 3848 feet above sea level, lie the barren ridges where Rock Wrens abound. Just below these, in the hot sun, Mr. Aldrich has observed a Hermit Thrush, lured far from its usual niche by ripening juniper berries.

Mr. Joseph Grinnell considered some of the birds of the new Sonoma Coast State Park, among them the Willow Goldfinches, which in summer are found plentifully up along the hillsides and out through the lupine bushes to the headland, but which are in winter conspicuously absent from their summer haunts. Along all the coast line upwelling air currents give fine opportunity for the soaring of Turkey Vultures and even in midwinter they may be seen. Savannah Sparrows find shelter in the beach grass among the dunes, and along the shore Snowy Plovers seek respite from the gale by crouching in the deep heel prints left by some passing stroller.

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

#### STANFORD CHAPTER

JUNE.—The monthly meeting of the Stanford Chapter of the Cooper Ornithological Club was called to order by President Willis H. Rich. The minutes were approved as corrected.

The committee on the Bay Shore Bird Refuge reported that it is still trying to contact Mr. Hunter, chief of the Game Reserves. The following report was made by the nominating committee: President, Dr. Rich; Vice-president, John Price; Secretary, Gladys Relyea. A motion was carried to cast a white ballot for the above officers to serve for the next year. Summer

meetings are to be called at the will of the Chair. It was voted to continue holding regular meetings on the first Thursday of each month. Dr. McCracken was appointed to report to the Chapter on articles which appear in the Auk.

Field observations were reported as follows: Dr. Rich, John Price, and Gladys Relyea observed a colony of 150 to 200 American Egrets nesting at Los Baños, and Mrs. Hackley reported egrets in the rice fields near Chico. Dr. Henderson observed that these birds are increasing in numbers in the West generally.

Mrs. Hackley noted the following birds on a recent field trip near the Stanford Campus: Russet-backed Thrush, Pileolated Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Western Flycatcher, young Black-headed Grosbeak, Robin, Spotted Towhee, Song Sparrow (nesting), Warbling Vireo, Purple Finch, and Lazuli Bunting. She reported Pine Siskins and nesting Lawrence Goldfinches on the San Jose State College campus. John Price noted Lawrence Goldfinches on the Stanford golf course. Reports were made of a snake found on a house top and another robbing a bird's nest. One was seen climbing the wall of the Anatomy Building.

Mrs. M. E. Davidson addressed the Chapter on "Samoa and Its Bird Life." Her descriptions of the islands and their scientific history were very interesting. She described many species, speaking of their habits and exhibiting skins. She told of the various islands and the life of the people who inhabit them.

Adjourned.—ALICE H. BALDWIN, *Secretary*.

OCTOBER.—The seventh meeting of the Stanford Chapter of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held October 18, 1934, at 7:30 p. m., in Jordan Hall, Stanford University. The meeting was called to order by Vice-president Price.

Reading of minutes was dispensed with and Mr. Price introduced the speaker of the evening, Dr. Albert Herre, curator of the Stanford Museum of Natural History.

Dr. Herre gave an interesting talk on the "Birds of the Philippines" and mentioned notable habits, particularly as regards nesting, of birds observed in various parts of the Pacific during his recent travels. He spoke of some of the remarkable features of the Galapagos, center of many excursions of zoological interest, and particularly of the fearlessness of the

birds and animals of this group of islands. He told of the flamingoes of Charles Island, of the penguins that were everywhere, and of the flightless cormorants of Albemarle and Narborough. He stated that there are at least 750 species of birds in the Philippines. *Gallus gallus*, the small fowl, is one of the ancestors of the common fowl. The fruit pigeons, *Zonophaps mindorensis*, *Megapodius cumingi* with their great nests, and the handsome scavenger hawk, *Haliaeetus leucogaster*, were some of the birds described.

Special mention was made of the Indian Cattle Egret, feeding on the parasites of the carabao and acting as an alarm clock for the rest of the population, and of *Pithecopaga jefferyi*, the monkey-eating eagle, the largest of all eagles except the Harpy Eagle of South America.

Adjourned.—I. McCracken, *Secretary pro-tem*.

DECEMBER.—The monthly meeting of the Stanford Chapter of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held December 6, 1934, with President Rich in the chair.

Owing to the resignation of the secretary, Miss Gladys Relyea, a new secretary, Mr. Wilbur V. Henry, was nominated and elected. Minutes of the June and October meetings were read. They were approved as read, with a slight correction.

The committee on the Bay Shore Refuge reported that Mrs. Hilda W. Grinnell, secretary of the Northern Division, indicated willingness to cooperate whenever contact could be made with Mr. Hunter of the California Fish and Game Commission under whose administration the bird refuges come. Dr. Rich informed the Chapter that Mr. Hunter had visited his office at a time when he was not present, and that a definite appointment should be sought with Mr. Hunter.

In the field of literature, Mr. Lastreto called the attention of the group to the availability of Dawson's "Birds of California" at very low prices. Discussion ensued as to the comparative value in school-work of the student's and book-lover's editions of this work.

Field observations included: Mr. John Price observed a California Towhee with one or two white wing feathers near the Women's Gymnasium on the Stanford Campus. Dr. Isabel McCracken asked if any members had seen a white thrasher reported seen in the vicinity of Dr. R. L. Wilbur's home. Dr. Willis Rich reported seeing an English sparrow in Union

Square, San Francisco, with some white feathers in one wing; he also noted that the white herons are back again. Discussion ensued relative to the probable northern limits of occurrence of these birds on the Peninsula. Dr. McCracken reported seeing from 200 to 300 white pelicans near Dumbarton Bridge last summer; her observation was confirmed by Dr. Rich. Miss Baldwin in company with Dr. Loye Miller saw a large number of Wood Ibises in a slough back of Newport Beach, Orange County. Dr. Rich reported seeing cedar waxwings in Palo Alto last July.

Miss Alice H. Baldwin presented to the meeting an interesting account of her work on the Coast Bush-tit. Her talk included the following topics in the life-history of this bird: Flocking habits, song notes, foraging habits, mating, nest building, egg laying, incubation of eggs, and the development of the young. She illustrated her talk with examples of nests, and with lantern slides showing phases of nest building, types of nests, and nestlings of various ages.

Adjourned.—WILBUR V. HENRY, *Secretary*.

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION

OCTOBER.—The monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at 8:00 p. m., Tuesday, October 30, 1934, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, with Vice-president Cowles in the Chair and twenty-six members and guests present. Minutes of the Southern Division for September were read and approved. Minutes of the Northern Division for September were read.

The following applications for membership were proposed: Mrs. Munson Deuprey, 1809 Virginia Road, Los Angeles, California, by Miss Miriam S. Faddis; Miss Gretchen M. Lyon, 4156 Dalton Avenue, Los Angeles, and Mr. Frank Richardson, 8193 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside, California, by Dr. Loye Miller; Mr. Sidney D. Platford, 4900 Sixth Avenue, Los Angeles, by Mr. George Willett.

For consideration by members of the Southern Division, Dr. Louis B. Bishop read the content of a letter received from Warren F. Eaton, secretary of The Hawk and Owl Society, Upper Montclair, New Jersey, outlining the plan now being undertaken by the Emergency Conservation Committee to purchase Hawk Mountain, Schuylkill and Berks counties, Pennsylvania, and make of it a sanctuary to pre-

vent further extermination of migrating hawks. It was earnestly hoped that bird lovers and students all over the United States would help to raise the necessary purchase price. Donations in any amount would be gratefully received.

The report of the pathologist with regard to the swelling on the foot of a linnet that had been submitted for analysis by Mr. and Mrs. Michener, was read by Dr. Parsons. Abnormal swellings on the feet of birds are not unusual, particularly on linnets, but this year the disease seems to be quite prevalent. The affliction was diagnosed as a tumor, somewhat akin to an ordinary wart, and due to an infection; it is not malignant. Dr. Parsons also gave some late September record dates for hummingbirds, either Allen or Rufous, seen in Monrovia.

Mrs. Michener spoke of having trapped more Mourning Doves during the past two years than ever before and of having noted that three of these birds were very much smaller than the others. They can readily be distinguished by size, and they appear browner on the back with lighter underparts.

An epidemic of some kind is causing the death of thousands of phalaropes this fall. Several members reported dead birds having been found in great numbers along the coast.

In lieu of a special program for the evening, Dr. Bishop gave a short talk on "Carmel after Six Years." He described to us the area surrounding Carmel which he used for many years as an observation and a collecting field. Cliffs dropping to the sea, to the north a mesa with no trees, hills covered with chaparral, the Carmel River with its many canyons, fir, cypress, and spruce in the mountains, pines on the peninsula, the lagoon near Moss Landing, Elkhorn Slough with its breeding Least Terns, and Carmel Bay itself, gave every possible variety of country one could desire for bird study. Returning this fall after an absence of six years, Dr. Bishop found many changes among the bird population. At Moss Landing, the pelicans and cormorants had decreased greatly. No cormorants were seen on Carmel Bay where they used to be in great numbers. The Heermann Gull, which used to be very common, was not seen, though Monterey Bay was full of Western and California gulls. Ducks were extremely scarce. Fifty Marbled Godwits were seen on the slough, and along the coast some five hundred Sanderlings. Quail were as numerous as

ever. Lutescent, Dusky, and Yellow warblers were seen and, on September 27, from fifty to one-hundred Townsend Warblers. The Winter Wren seemed to be on the increase.

These were but a few of the very interesting comments made by Dr. Bishop on Carmel bird life. At the close of his talk a sketch was shown, made from life, of a hummingbird seen in Carmel. The bird was a female about the size of an Anna, but with strangely different markings, the most conspicuous being that of a white forehead band. Dr. Bishop was not permitted to collect the bird but, from sight observation, his belief is that the unusual color pattern, while hardly to be classified as the result of hybridism, might possibly be that of a very highly plumaged female showing albinism.

Adjourned.—LAURA B. LAW, *Secretary*.

NOVEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at 8:00 p. m., Tuesday, November 27, 1934, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles. President Abbott occupied the Chair and thirty members and guests were present. Minutes of the Southern Division for October were read and approved. Minutes of the Northern Division for October were read. Names proposed for membership were: Mr. John Raynesford Williams, 801 West Nevada Street, Urbana, Illinois, by W. Lee Chambers, and Mr. William T. Hudspeth, 642 East Second Street, Tucson, Arizona, by Allan R. Phillips.

Mr. Willett, chairman of the committee appointed to study the questionnaire submitted by the National Resources Board, Washington, D. C., with regard to the recreational use of land in the United States, reported that the committee had written to George M. Wright, Director of the Recreation Division, stating that the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club felt that he was fully qualified to act for them and that any answers or recommendations he might make would meet with their approval.

On motion by Dr. Miller, seconded by Dr. Cowles, and duly carried, the regular meeting date for December was advanced one week because of the Christmas holidays.

On motion by Mr. Willett, seconded by Dr. Miller, and duly carried, the secretary was instructed to write to Dr. William T. Hornaday on the occasion of his 80th birthday, December 1, 1934, and to send greet-

ings from the Southern Division as well as a word of appreciation for his work toward the conservation of wild life.

Mr. Michener, speaking with reference to the Chinese Spotted Doves, said they were first heard in his yard in Pasadena about two years ago, and they have rapidly increased. Banding of them was begun last December, and their records show five banded in the first four months as against twenty-nine in the last three months. Mr. McCoy said he had been feeding the Chinese Spotted Doves at his home in Los Angeles over a period of four years, until within the last few months, when they came in such numbers the neighbors objected. Mr. Pierce reported having seen a Chinese Spotted Dove in Claremont last March for the first time and that in October either the same bird, or another of the species, had again been seen and heard in the same place. Mr. McCoy recalled having seen the species on the Pomona Fair Grounds this September.

Mr. van Rossem asked, "What about the Ringed Turtle Dove?" and said that within the year he had noted the bird in a eucalyptus grove near his home in Altadena for the first time. A single individual seen in Buena Park last year was reported by Mr. Robertson, who also said that some twenty-five years ago he had seen another in the same neighborhood. Mr. Appleton, commenting on the fact that the Ringed Turtle Dove was a resident of park areas and unable to survive very long out in the open, told how thirteen of the birds had been liberated from an aviary and all but three killed by hawks. These three were recaptured and, in a year and a half when they had increased their number to twelve, were again liberated. This time all were killed.

Dr. E. Raymond Hall, visiting member from the Northern Division, was introduced and gave a brief talk on his bird work. Dr. W. A. Hilton, of Claremont, spoke of his trip to Yucatan this summer and of his surprise at the great number of fine songsters heard in the jungle region.

A short but interesting resumé of the meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union held at Chicago this fall was given by Mr. Willett, and his comments were

confirmed and added to by President Abbott.

Adjourned.—LAURA B. LAW, *Secretary*.

DECEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at 8:00 p. m., Tuesday, December 18, 1934, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, with President Abbott in the Chair and twenty-three members and guests present. Minutes of the Southern Division for November were read and, with one correction, were approved. Minutes of the Northern Division for November were read. The application for membership of Irl Rogers, 402 Alturas Avenue, Modesto, California, proposed by E. L. Sumner, was presented through the Western Bird-banding Association.

A letter was read from the secretary of the Pacific Division of the A.A.A.S. requesting that the Cooper Club be represented, if possible, at the meeting of the Affiliation Committee in San Francisco, on January 11, 1935. The motion was made by Dr. Miller that the representative of the Northern Division of the Cooper Club be empowered to act on behalf of the entire Club. This motion was seconded by Dr. Warmer and duly carried.

The death of George L. Kaeding, one of the early members of the Cooper Ornithological Club, was brought to attention. On motion by Dr. Miller seconded by Wright M. Pierce, the secretary was asked to write a letter conveying to Mrs. Kaeding the profound sympathy of the Southern Division of the Club.

Field observations were reported by several members. The question asked by Dr. Warmer, "What will be the effect on birds by our early rains?" brought out an interesting discussion; the consensus of opinion was that shortage of food would have a greater effect on the movement of birds than the condition of the weather.

The Chair announced the appointment of the following members as a nominating committee to propose officers for the Southern Division for 1935: Mr. George Willett, chairman, Mr. J. R. Pemberton, and Mr. Harold Michener.

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