

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

MAY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, on Tuesday, May 26, at 8 p.m., with President Little in the Chair and twenty-seven members and guests present.

Minutes of the Southern Division for April were read and approved. Minutes of the Northern Division for April were read. A letter from the secretary of the Pacific Division, American Association for the Advancement of Science, was read, calling attention to the meetings to be held in Seattle, June 16 and 20, and asking for the appointment of two Cooper Club members to serve on the Affiliation Committee. It was moved, seconded and passed that the members who attend from the Northern Division be asked to represent the Southern Division also. The following applications for membership were presented: R. B. Trouslot, Walnut Creek, California, and Libero Seghetti, Eatonville, Washington, by W. Lee Chambers; and Floyd A. McDonald, P. O. Box 283, Vista, California, by John McB. Robertson.

George Willett called attention to the recent paper on the California Quail by E. Lowell Sumner, Jr., which appeared as a publication of the California Fish and Game Commission. Dr. Bishop commented on the usefulness of this paper in giving him ideas on how to keep quail out of certain plant beds in his garden. Members reporting on recent trips and observations were: Loye H. Miller, Dr. Bishop, Raymond B. Cowles, Kenneth Stager, Sidney B. Peyton, and Mrs. Laura B. Law. Mrs. Law told of some friends witnessing a battle between a pair of California Thrashers and a California Jay; the latter evidently had been killing the thrashers' young. The thrashers were the victors and retired leaving the jay dead on the field.

The evening's program, *Birds of Laysan Island*, was presented by George Willett, who had made a three months' trip to that island in 1912, while in the employ of the U. S. Biological Survey. The stay on the island was primarily to take a census of the breeding pairs of albatross which nested there, and to kill off the rabbits which were becoming so numerous as to threaten the existence of all vegetation on the island. In the census taken of the nesting albatrosses, it was found that there were about twenty thousand pairs, made up of about twelve thousand pairs of Laysan Albatross and eight thousand pairs of Black-footed Albatross. The Laysan Albatross nested in the interior of the island around the lagoon which covered over half the

island, while the Black-footed nested mostly along the beach. Due to heavy rains soon after the party landed, over three thousand Albatross nests were destroyed by the rising waters of the lagoon. Over five thousand rabbits were killed during the three months' stay on the island. Mr. Willett told of many interesting incidents that happened, and described the different species of birds that were nesting there. He had a tray of eggs of the different birds found nesting, and two trays of bird skins that were taken on the trip. These were examined with much interest by all present.

Adjourned.—SIDNEY B. PEYTON, *Secretary*.

JUNE.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Tuesday, June 30, 1936, at 8 p.m., at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, with President Little in the Chair and thirty-one members and guests present. Minutes of the Southern Division for May were read and approved. Minutes of the Northern Division for May were read.

Applications for membership in the club were: Herbert Pierre DeTracey, Bradley, California, and Richard Codman, Jr., Fair Oaks, California, by John McB. Robertson; Paul Beaubien, Flagstaff, Arizona, by Lyndon L. Hargrave; and Josh Harlan Carey, 1315 Fourth St., Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, by Henry J. Rust.

Dr. Loye Miller reported on the recent publication, "*Oceanic Birds of South America*," by Robert Cushman Murphy, commenting on the excellency of this work. There was no program to be given, so that the remainder of the evening was spent by members telling about trips they had taken, or of interesting incidents that they had noted in the field of ornithology. W. Lee Chambers reported on the capture of a California Condor on the Tejon Ranch. The bird was placed in a chicken coop for safe keeping, from which it finally escaped. C. O. Reis reported on his recent trip to the Mono Basin. Dr. Miller reported that he had undertaken a study of the songs of the mockingbirds that occur in his back yard. Mrs. Law reported that she had recently heard a male Black-headed Grosbeak singing like a roller canary. Dr. Alfred Lewy, a visitor from Chicago, told of some of his experiences meeting new birds in southern California. A motion was passed that the Southern Division hold regular meetings during July and August.

Adjourned.—SIDNEY B. PEYTON, *Secretary*.

NORTHERN DIVISION

MAY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological

Club was held on Thursday, May 28, 1936, at 8 p.m., in Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with Vice-president McLean in the Chair and about forty members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for April were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for April were read.

Applications for membership were: Mrs. Horatio Bonestell, 2610 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, Calif., proposed by Eric C. Kinsey, and Charles R. Sprinkle, Box 849, Havre, Montana, proposed by Jean M. Linsdale. Miss Selma Werner reported briefly upon a recent visit to the State Game Refuge near Los Baños, where ninety species of birds were seen. Her query as to how the non-native Pekin Ducks and Black Ducks have become established at the refuge was answered by the Chairman who explained that the former species sometimes escapes from farmyards and joins flocks of wild birds, while the latter species was released on the refuge by the State Division of Fish and Game. An inquiry by Mr. Dyer regarding the disastrous leasing last year of the grazing rights on the refuge during the nesting season of the ducks, was met with an assurance that the mistake would not be repeated.

Mr. Cain reported that on May 15 he had noted a flock of Crossbills in flight over the Oakland scout camp; also that the Red-breasted Nuthatches have again nested at the camp. This year the latter raised their five young, now banded, in a nest box placed for their use. Mr. Dyer's account of the behavior of a young Road-runner observed by him on the Lake Chabot road eleven miles from his home, inclined his hearers to think, with him, that the bird might have been one of the two yearling birds which he recently released on his own hillside.

Mr. Grinnell exhibited a Pacific Golden Plover secured by Donald McLean on Bay Farm Island, January 15, 1922, the specimen having been referred to this race by Major Brooks during his recent stay in Berkeley. He suggested that observers of shore-birds be on the alert for individuals of this race during the winter season.

Mr. Eric C. Kinsey of Manor, Marin County, was the evening's speaker, and his topic "Ornithological Research through Aviculture, Chapter II." The first "chapter" was given to the Division on September 27, 1934. The new "chapter" revealed further advances in the experiments of Mr. and Mrs. Kinsey in keeping native birds healthy and well-plumaged in captivity. There are now 150 individuals, representing 57 species, in their larger aviary, kept fit by almost as many different kinds of food.

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

JUNE.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, June 25, 1936, at 8 p.m., in Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Miller in the Chair and about fifty-five members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for May were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division were read. Applications for membership were: Orlando F. Weber, Jr., Mt. Kisco, New York, proposed by Hilda W. Grinnell; Joseph Kittredge, Jr., 231 Giannini Hall, University of California, Berkeley, proposed by J. Grinnell; and Milton Charles Albrecht, 2234 Haste Street, Berkeley, proposed by Margaret W. Wythe.

When field notes were called for, Mr. Dyer described meeting with a Road-runner four miles south of his home, which he recognized as one that had been raised on his place in Piedmont. Despite the fact that this bird had not been seen by Mr. Dyer for over two months, it apparently recognized him; for upon being coaxed it flew up to his knee and fed from his hand. Alden Miller then described the reactions of Road-runners around his recent camp in Arizona. Several members participated in a discussion of quail and their enemies. Mr. Dyer mentioned the hazard of gratings over sewers. In his neighborhood, bird-lovers have placed wire mesh over such gratings to prevent the heavy mortality observed in the past, from the young quail falling through and drowning. The discussion then turned to the "broken-wing" behavior of many kinds of birds, and the adequacy of a recently suggested explanation of fright paralysis. Alden Miller reviewed briefly the recent monograph by Dayton Stoner on Bank Swallows, which appeared in the *Roosevelt Wild Life Annals*.

The speaker of the evening was Dr. Seth B. Benson, who had just returned from a three months' collecting trip in Mexico. Many of the birds that he collected were shown and commented upon. The speaker was impressed by the seemingly greater abundance of birds in northwestern Mexico where his observations were made than in this country. Particularly common were vultures, doves and parrots. On Tiburon Island few birds were seen, but several of these constituted new records for that locality. Of more than usual interest was an account of a hunt for a wild turkey. Also of special interest were his observations on Barn Swallows nesting in the best room of a Mexican dwelling where he stayed. After the talk, the specimens proved a center of attraction for members and guests alike.

Adjourned.—WILLIAM H. BEHLE, *Acting Secretary*.