

life throughout the mid-west. Anent our enforced and regrettable decision not regularly to publish formal book reviews in the *Condor*, as announced in last issue, we are pleased to note that the December issue of the *Wilson Bulletin* includes no less than ten full pages of reviews written by Editor T. C. Stephens. These reviews strike us as of the ideal sort; they give the reader in a few words a fair idea of the nature of the book or article reviewed, they are properly commendatory where truly deserved, and also they are sharply and justly critical in places. This review feature of the *Wilson Bulletin* is one that we have admired, and we hope nothing will interfere with its active continuation.—J.G.



Fig. 13. W. Otto Emerson, life member of the Cooper Ornithological Club, now past 80 years of age and well known to all of the older generation of bird students. Photo taken March 2, 1932, Emerson's 76th birthday.

Jean Delacour, eminent French ornithologist, has been in California since the latter part of November. With his round-the-world trip checked at this point by the maritime strike, he has made the best of his time by widening his acquaintance with the birds and bird students of the State. This has been pleasant for those of us who have had the opportunity of meeting with him, and also his sojourn here has enabled him to acquire living birds of species new to his aviaries. These birds, many of them delicate, he will "personally conduct," as soon as a through steamer to France can be had.—A.H.M.

In this era of rapidly changing habitat conditions for many of our native kinds of animals, it would be well for bird-watchers to keep close record of such conspicuous changes in numbers as seem correlated with the extending human use of the land and water. Human-imposed modifications of environment may affect certain birds favorably; on this score we can point to the Mockingbird, Linnet, Brewer Blackbird and Killdeer as having probably increased in numbers. On the other hand are doubtless many species whose essential living conditions are becoming more and more reduced—let alone those direct factors of destruction like shooting. Among these species there are some that may right now be on the verge of extinction. For future historical use, it is desirable that reports of actual numbers of individuals seen, and circumstances of their observation, be printed where later accessible. Some of the species we think of at the moment, from the standpoint especially of status in California, that ought to receive this sort of attention are: Mountain Plover, Florida Gallinule, Least Bittern, Ross Goose, Cackling Goose, Fulvous Tree-duck, Shoveller, Redhead, Red-bellied Hawk, Swainson Hawk, Osprey, Sandhill Crane, and Least Tern. What was the actual status of each of these species in the year 1936?—J.G.

Recently, when looking up some early California bird records, our attention was arrested by the title of an article by Elliott Coues, in the *American Naturalist* for 1870 (vol. 4, pp. 297-303). The article was entitled "Foot-notes from a Page of Sand," and we proceeded to read it through. It dealt with avian foot prints as seen on a sea-beach—observations probably made when Coues was stationed at Fort Macon, North Carolina. The discourse proceeds somewhat according to the formula of a standard detective story. Scientific imagination is given play on a foundation of accurate knowledge, with results that are, to a bird student, truly thrilling. Coues, in the judgment of not a few bird students today, was the most scholarly and at the same time the most literarily accomplished ornithologist America has ever produced.—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 24, 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 August were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for August were read. Appli-

cations for membership were: Mrs. Dorothy Dean Sheldon, 49 Canyon Road, Berkeley, Calif., proposed by Mrs. James T. Allen; Lincoln Ellison, Missoula, Montana, and Walter Moore, 5401 Miles Ave., Oakland, Calif., proposed by J. Grinnell; Henry B. Loof, Oak Harbor, Washington, proposed by E. L. Sumner, Sr.

E. L. Sumner, Jr., reported on the organization meeting of the Alameda County Wild Life Federation, September 15. He explained in detail the structure of the Federation and its function, not as a lobby, but as a means of spreading information concerning wild life to local branches. Following discussion, it was moved and carried that the Cooper Club continue its relations with the Federation, and that the original committee of three be retained as representatives, although each organization is allowed only one vote. The proposal of Loye Miller for Honorary membership in the Club, originating in the Southern Division, was read by the Secretary, signed for the Northern Division by Gayle B. Pickwell, John G. Tyler, J. Grinnell and Joseph Mailliard. A motion for the adoption of the report was unanimously carried.

Reports of field observations were numerous. Frank Richardson reported an abundance of Pileated Woodpeckers near Cazadero; at least seven were seen and as many more heard, September 19 and 20. Laidlaw Williams reported the presence at Carmel of the Golden Plover on August 13 and 26 and of the Pectoral Sandpiper on September 11. Mr. Clark P. Streater described his intensive survey of the bird and mammalian life of Santa Cruz County. Mr. Dyer told of having seen 100 Egrets recently at Salt Pond, Alvarado. Mr. Kittredge reported 10 Snowy Egrets, 70 American Egrets and the White-faced Glossy Ibis, at Los Baños, September 18. Mr. Grinnell recalled that in 1910 the Snowy Egret was reported as wiped out in California. Mr. Danforth gave additional records of this species from Elkhorn Slough and Los Baños; Mr. Davis mentioned its presence at Richmond. The Bell Sparrow, which does not appear on the campus list of birds, was reported on the fire road circling the head of Strawberry Canyon, August 30 and September 13, by Douglas L. Kraus. A case of acute mastoiditis in an Allen Hummingbird, autopsied by Dr. J. M. Neil, of Oakland, was reported by Miss Carter. Previous to its death, the bird had suffered paralysis of one wing and foot, due to pressure on the brain from the infection.

Mr. William B. Davis gave the main contribution of the evening, "Biotic Areas of Idaho." Illustrating with maps, he reviewed the general geography and something of the geologic history of the State. The biotic areas he had worked out primarily in relation to mammals, but much interesting information pertaining to the bird life

was gathered at the same time. Mr. Davis had followed many of the same trails taken in 1890 by C. Hart Merriam, Vernon Bailey, and Clark P. Streater.

*Adjourned.*—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary.*

OCTOBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, October 22, 1936, at 8 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Miller in the Chair and about eighty members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for September were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for September were read. A motion for final ratification of the proposal for Honorary membership in the Club, of Loye Miller, was unanimously carried. The Chair announced that the date of the next meeting would be advanced to Thursday, November 19, to avoid conflict with the Thanksgiving holiday.

The meeting was opened to field observations. One member told of a one-legged White-crowned Sparrow which had been seen here in April and October, 1935, and October, 1936, apparently quite able to survive with its handicap. From Glen Alpine Creek, near Fallen Leaf Lake, eight or nine Townsend Solitaires were reported, September 17 to 28, feeding on juniper berries. Mr. Dyer commented on the Mockingbird in Alameda County; it has now become so numerous that about twenty-five were recently seen by him in an hour, from the highway between Niles and Oakland. Several reports on the increasing number of Snowy Egrets in California were given, and Mr. Emlen told of spring nesting colonies of American Egrets in the Sacramento Valley, numbering two or three hundred individuals. Mr. Dyer reported having seen Road-runners attacked by hawks on two occasions, once in Santa Barbara County by a Sparrow Hawk, and again near his Piedmont home by another species, probably the Cooper Hawk.

Introduced as one who seeks the highest form of bird life, zonally, Mr. Howard Twining spoke on "Summer Observations on the Sierra Nevada Rosy Finch." Lantern slides illustrated the story of nine weeks of adventure and study in the High Sierra, where rigorous winter conditions were encountered as late as May 25. At permanent camp in Virginia Canyon, the list of nesting birds included, beside the Leucosticte, the Sierra Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, Mountain Bluebird, Clark Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee and Water Ouzel. Other species were seen in migration as the snow receded. Nesting activities of the Rosy Finches began June 13. It is a striking fact that, at those high altitudes, during the intervals when the female leaves the eggs they

become apparently ice cold; and yet they hatch normally. The growth period is long; the young birds remain in the nest for eighteen days. By August 15, the Rosy Finches were found in flocks and had sought yet higher altitudes.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Los Angeles Museum on Tuesday, September 29, 1936, at 8 p.m., with President Little in the Chair and eighty members and guests present. Minutes of the Southern Division for August were read and approved. Minutes of the Northern Division for August were read by title only. Applications for membership were: Harry C. James, 650 E. Mariposa St., Altadena, Calif., by Luther Little; Donald Vincent Hemphill, Southern California Junior College, Arlington, Calif., by Lester H. Cushman; William H. Long, Jr., 1334 White St., Ann Arbor, Mich., by W. Lee Chambers; Herman Belden Keene, 14 McKevevett Heights, Santa Paula, Calif., by M. C. Badger; and Raymond Quigley, Jr., P. O. Box 445, Pico, Calif., by John McB. Robertson. Following the second reading of the proposal for Honorary membership of Loye H. Miller, George Willett moved that Dr. Miller be duly elected. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rich, and unanimously carried.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Bailey, of Washington, D.C., who were present were introduced, Mrs. Bailey by Dr. Miller and Mr. Bailey by President Little. Mr. Bailey showed a motion picture film of the trapping of bobcats and coyotes near Escondido, California, with the new trap that he has invented. He told of the construction of the trap, and illustrated its use with one which he had with him. The trap does not harm the animal in the least. It is securely held for any length of time without pain or discomfort. Pictures of eastern red fox cubs that Mr. Bailey has for pets at his home in Washington also were shown.

J. B. Dixon of Escondido then showed two reels of pictures taken in 1936, mainly in the high Sierra near Mammoth. These interesting pictures were in color and showed nesting of the Golden Eagle and Anna Hummingbird near Escondido, and of the Clark Nutcracker and the Sierra Nevada Rosy Finch in the mountains. The pictures of the Clark Nutcracker were taken in early April at which time everything was covered with snow; the thermometer would drop to twelve and sixteen degrees below zero at night. The pictures of the Sierra Nevada Rosy Finch were taken in early July, when most of the snow had melted, except where the nesting cliffs were at an altitude of 11,500 feet. A few other nests also

were shown: Black-billed Magpie, Long-eared Owl, Nevada Sage Sparrow, Gray Flycatcher, Pigmy Nuthatch, and Sharp-shinned Hawk.

The secretary spoke of the program for October, and mentioned that it was necessary to advance the date one week to October 20 in order to arrange for the speaker and films.

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

OCTOBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, on Tuesday, October 20, at 8 p.m., with President Little in the Chair and fifty members and guests present. Minutes of the Southern Division for September were read, corrected and approved. Applications for membership were: Luther J. Goldman, 1092 Keith Ave., Berkeley, Calif., by John McB. Robertson; Ernest Stanley Dodge, Peabody Museum, Salem, Mass., by S. G. Emilio.

A letter from the Fish and Game Development Association relative to the necessity of laws regulating the sardine reduction boats operating outside the three mile limit was read. Dr. Cowles moved that a committee be appointed to study the situation and report to the Board of Governors. President Little appointed Dr. Cowles, Mr. Platford, and Dr. Wood to serve on this committee. Dr. Wood spoke on the convention of the Federation of Natural Sciences to be held in the spring of 1937, and asked that two members of the Southern Division be appointed to serve on an executive committee to meet on December 9 to arrange the program for the coming meeting. President Little indicated that he would appoint delegates at the next meeting. J. R. Pemberton gave a report on the shooting of eagles from an airplane in the northern part of the State. He stated that the Bureau of Aeronautics had warned the pilot that his plane would be grounded and his license suspended unless he ceased his operations. Dr. Grinnell gave a résumé of the new state list of the birds of California upon which he is at work.

Herman Keene, the speaker of the evening, showed two reels of motion pictures, taken mainly in the higher mountains of Ventura County where he hunts mountain lions. As the pictures were shown, he told of his varied experiences in taking them. Twenty-six mountain lions have been trapped and killed since he started this work. The pictures illustrated methods of setting traps and protecting them from deer and other larger animals that travel the mountain trails. Two black bears that accidentally got into his traps were shown, as well as several mountain lions. Some interesting scenes showing rattlesnakes and their actions were included.

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