

wanted: 1. In what parts of the state with which you are familiar are crows found in mid-winter? 2. How common are crows in these sections in mid-winter? 3. Have you noted any increase or decrease in the past few decades? 4. Are there any well-marked morning or evening flights? Where were they observed, and in which direction were the birds flying? 5. Do you know the exact location of any mid-winter crow roost? 6. How many crows in the roost? (Date of this observation.) 7. How long has the site been used? Has it been used every winter? Please send a note summarizing any information you may have on any of these questions to the undersigned, Division of Zoology, College of Agriculture, University of California, Davis, California.—JOHN T. EMLÉN, JR.

Professor Junius Henderson, for many years a member of the Cooper Ornithological Club and a contributor to the *Condor*, died on November 4, 1937, at the age of seventy-two years. From 1903 until his retirement in 1933, he was curator of the museum of the University of Colorado, and from 1908 to 1933 professor of natural history. During the period of his curatorship the museum was organized, and established on a firm basis, as an independent department of the University; it acquired outstanding collections largely through his personal efforts in the field. Although Professor Henderson's primary interests were elsewhere, he published thirty-one papers and one book on birds over a period of twenty-seven years. In 1905 he transcribed the field notes of Denis Gale, and made a critical analysis of them, incorporating in some of his papers certain of Gale's observations not previously published by Major Charles Bendire. His most important contribution to ornithology was an exhaustive summary of the economic relations of birds in his book *The Practical Value of Birds* (Macmillan, 1927). A glance through the book is revealing of the author's thoroughness of mind and method, as well as of his broadness of interest and character. Although the major portion of the work is a thoroughly documented account of what birds eat, what good they do and what harm they do, the first chapter closes with the admonition to remember that "even if the birds had no economic value whatever, they would still well deserve our study, encouragement and protection." The fact that nowhere in the book is there foolish sentimentality, in spite of this most poetic outlook, reflects the character of the man, who could be a thorough scientist and still find "sermons in stones, and good in everything." Those fortunate enough to have known Junius Henderson, even a little, will cherish his memory not only as a careful and critical naturalist, but more than that, as a charming personality.—GORDON ALEXANDER, *University of Colorado, Boulder, November 11, 1937.*

## 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 23, 1937, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Kinsey in the chair and about 115 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for August were read, corrected and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division were read. An application for membership was read from Walter E. Howard, Bowles Hall, Berkeley, endorsed by Dale Arvey. Mrs. Kelly urged that the Cooper Club appoint its representative in the Alameda County Wildlife Federation before the next meeting of that body, as issues vital to the future of the Federation would be taken up at that time. In order to allow more time for the remainder of the program, field observations were postponed until next meeting.

The evening's speaker was Mr. James B. Dixon, of Escondido, California, who has studied and photographed 75 per cent of the breeding birds of California. The reels of motion pictures which he showed, many of them in natural colors, dealt with his ornithological observations for 1937. Typical scenes on the Mohave and Colorado deserts included a study of the Vermilion Flycatcher. Remarkable nesting studies of raptors showed eggs and young of the White-tailed Kite, Duck Hawk, and Goshawk. Mr. Dixon observed that, although the migrating Goshawk may deserve its bad name, the nesting Goshawk subsists largely on squirrels; smaller birds often nest in considerable numbers in the vicinity of the Goshawk's nest, apparently finding there sanctuary from other enemies, such as the Pigeon Hawk. Scenes from the high sierra of Mono County closed the program.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary.*

OCTOBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, October 28, 1937, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Kinsey in the chair and about 110 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for September were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division were read. Names proposed for membership were: Victor E. Jones, University of Idaho, Pocatello, Idaho, by J. M. Linsdale; Maurice W. Provost, 2527 Channing Way, Berkeley, by Seth B. Benson.

Mr. Frederick H. Test, recently appointed by the President as representative of the Cooper Club in the Alameda County Wildlife Federation, reported upon the reorganization program of the

Federation, which includes plans for a "wildlife restoration week" to be set aside in March, 1938. Mr. Covel spoke a few words in memory of the late Frank Stephens of San Diego, whose inspiration had furthered the careers of many of the younger ornithologists. A letter of sympathy has been sent to Mrs. Stephens by Mr. George Willett, president of the Board of Governors of the Cooper Club.

Mr. Lewis W. Taylor reviewed an article from the April 17 issue of *Nature*, by Professor Rowan of Alberta, Canada, dealing with the stimulating effect of city night-lighting and traffic noises upon the reproductive vigor of Starlings.

Field observations were contributed by many members. Mr. C. G. Thompson had recorded a White-throated Sparrow on October 9 and 24, at his home on Arlington Avenue, Berkeley. He also had observed 40 or 50 Red-breasted Nuthatches in Lake County during September, when Mr. Kinsey had noted the scarcity of that species in Marin County. Mr. Streator told of several additions to his list of the birds of Santa Cruz County.

Mr. Ralph W. Chaney, of the department of Paleontology at the University of California, spoke on "Birds in the Trees around the Pacific." He described the difficulty of reconstructing a complete picture of the earth's biological appearance in past ages, due to the extreme scarcity of fossil bird remains. He suggested that since such records as do exist demonstrate the definite relationship between vegetation and mammalian, bird and insect life, it might be possible, with caution, to interpolate the missing bird species into fossil forests by studying the bird populations of comparable present-day forests in other parts of the world. Colored lantern slides led the audience through forest lands of the Pacific coasts of both North and South America, and then by way of Alaska through Siberia and Mongolia to China. Excerpts from Mr. Chaney's field notes upon the birds of all these regions accompanied the illustrations.

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, Exposition Park, on Tuesday, September 28, 1937, at 8 p.m., with President Little in the chair and 65 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. Names proposed for membership were: Robinson C.

Watters, P. O. Box 298, Cambridge, Maryland, by W. Lee Chambers, and Robert Forester, 1803 So. Hobart Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif., by J. S. Appleton.

Recent field observations were given by several members. The speaker of the evening, A. J. van Rossem, told of his recent trip into Mexico, accompanied by Robert Hannum. Some of their troubles trying to pull a one-wheeled trailer into the mountains in the southeastern part of Sonora were related. This locality had never been visited before by ornithologists and a number of rare species of birds were obtained. On their way south from Nogales birds encountered included the White-fronted Parrot, which was most numerous. At the conclusion of Mr. van Rossem's talk, a tray of bird skins secured on the trip was exhibited and was examined with much interest.

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, Los Angeles, on Tuesday, October 26, at 8 p.m., with 42 members and guests present. As both President and Vice-President were absent, J. R. Pemberton was requested to preside at the meeting. Minutes of the Southern Division for September were read and approved. Minutes of the Northern Division for September were read. Miss Maybelle E. Watson, Box 303, Sunland, Calif., was proposed for membership by Loye Miller.

A letter was read from the secretary of the Pacific Division, American Association for the Advancement of Science, stating that according to a change in the constitution of the Association, a council was to be formed composed of the secretaries, or other officers as designated, of the associated societies. The time and meeting place was to be announced later. It was voted that the Northern Division be requested to represent the Southern Division, if the affiliation meeting was to be held in the north. Mr. Chambers stated that he had placed on view copies of new books, *Furbearing Mammals of California* by Grinnell, *Dixon and Linsdale*, and *Marine Game Fishes* by Walford, and would be pleased to take orders if anyone wished to purchase them. There being no regular speaker for the evening, a number of members were called on for their recent observations. Following a discussion of the present status of the wild duck population in the United States it was moved, seconded and carried that the Southern Division go on record as favoring at least a three-year closed season on all species of wild ducks and geese.

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