

NOTES AND NEWS

The dates for the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club at Fresno have been set for Friday and Saturday, April 15 and 16, 1938. The sessions will be held in McLane Hall on the campus of Fresno State College. On Sunday, the 17th, there will be a field trip to the Los Baños marshes under the guidance of Mr. John Tyler. Members who wish to contribute to the scientific sessions should submit titles at once, so that details of the program can be arranged. The business meeting of the Club and the election of directors has been scheduled for 10 a.m., April 15. The business managers especially urge that proxies be returned on the forms sent from their office in order to make possible the transaction of official business. Members of both the northern and southern divisions anticipate a pleasant and profitable meeting at Fresno. The local committee, through its chairman, Professor William T. Shaw, extends a special invitation to attend.—A. H. M.

Witmer Stone's two-volume work entitled "Bird Studies at Old Cape May" stands out in our estimation as *the* contribution to American ornithology during the year 1937. It comprises a total of xiv plus 941 pages, 2 colored frontispieces, no less than 119 halftone plates, and a great number of drawings. Essentially this is an exhaustive record of field observation by many bird students in a given area and for a given period, mainly 1920 to 1930. But also, it is a chronicle of practically everything known from the beginning of history concerning the bird life of coastal New Jersey, indeed of that entire state. This work looks very definitely to be a contribution from the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, in which organization Dr. Stone has been a moving factor ever since the date of its founding, in 1890. Over 100 of its members, present and past, have participated in the production of the book, by furnishing written accounts, censuses, drawings and photographs. These have been put together by Dr. Stone, along with the results of his own concentrated field studies, in masterly fashion—a lasting demonstration of what genuine cooperation can do. Emphasis is placed upon bird behavior, habitat relations, and the nature of human influences upon bird communities. A quotation here (from page 37) will show why Californians, for example, may benefit in some practical way from consulting this work. "It may still be possible for the summer resorts along the coast to establish themselves as wildlife sanctuaries. Following the lead of the Audubon Association the borough of Cape May Point has forbidden gunning within its limits and the residents of Brigantine have

made a sanctuary of that island. It is nothing less than a calamity that a portion of Seven Mile Beach and the area between Cape May and the Point were not secured when their purchase was easily possible and dedicated to the preservation of Nature; but there is still opportunity to bring common sense into the mosquito draining work and to instill a proper appreciation of wildlife preservation into the popular mind. With the enormous increase in the ranks of nature-lovers, today, there is no better way to exploit our seaside resorts than by advertising their wealth of wild birds and wild flowers, and if such a plan were followed here it would attract thousands of visitors of the most desirable character and redound to the reputation and financial benefit of Cape May." We understand that copies of this publication can be had from the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, at bare cost of printing, namely \$6.50, including charges for packing and forwarding.—J. G.

A mimeographed bulletin entitled "California Bird News" comes to our desk from the Division of Wildlife Research of the Bureau of Biological Survey. It is clear from the statement of cooperation with state agricultural agencies which it contains and from the tenor of its contents that the main purpose is to make known the activities of governmental agencies in the "control" of birds. The bulletin must be successful in attaining this objective. Especially, does it endeavor to show the need for "control." In the issue of October, 1937 (vol. 2, no. 4), attention is called to the requirement that Agricultural Commissioners report the number of birds killed in control operations. "The Bureau wants to know what species are being controlled, and the number of each species killed." We submit that it would be fitting for "California Bird News," in keeping with its title, to present a summation of such reports and also the number killed by the Biological Survey itself. Not only should the group which the "News" reaches be interested in the figures but also those people who are not in sympathy with "control."—A. H. M.

Memoir No. VIII of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, issued in December, 1937, is devoted to "an account" of that organization from the year of its founding, 1873, until the death of William Brewster, its first and continuing president, in 1919. The author, one of the Club's earliest members, is Charles F. Batchelder, himself also a long-time officer, serving as Treasurer for no less than fifty consecutive years! Of all the now many ornithological "clubs" in America, the N.O.C. was not only the first but undoubtedly the most

potent in its influence upon the growth of bird-study throughout the country. Not only have eminent men been members of that group, at least in their formative years, but important subsequent enterprises stemmed from it. Batchelder does not say as much, but the reader cannot escape this conclusion after reading his accurately written historical account. This includes biographies and early portraits of many of the men we know through our literature, that of the West as well as elsewhere; for example (besides Brewster), Henry W. Henshaw, J. A. Allen, Frank Bolles, John Murdoch, Outram Bangs, John E. Thayer, Bradford Torrey, Charles W. Townsend, Ralph Hoffmann; and, more recently, A. C. Bent, Glover M. Allen, John C. Phillips, Francis H. Allen, James L. Peters, and numerous others. Thus we westerners have here a repository of biographical data bearing here and there importantly upon our own special field of interest. Incidentally, we are afforded another fine demonstration of "New England" literary skill. Mostly, writers elsewhere seem too much in a hurry to heed the literary proprieties. Mr. Batchelder dedicates his book "To those friends of mine who appear in these pages but who will not read them."—J. G.

Two references to the systematics of birds of western North America have come to our attention that might escape the notice of students in this field. Both relate to flycatchers. These items are found in John T. Zimmer's "Studies of Peruvian Birds" that appear in the American Museum Novitates. In number 962 of the Novitates, of date November 18, 1937, opinion is expressed (pp. 12-13) that the western race (*hespericola*) of the Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), described by Oberholser from the Warner Valley of Oregon, appears not to warrant separation. Although no final conclusion is voiced, serious question is raised concerning the recognition of this subspecies. In number 963 of the same series, and of same date, more extended consideration is given (pp. 1-6) to the nomenclature of the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher of southeastern Arizona. It is claimed that the type of *Myiodynastes luteiventris vicinior* Cory, taken in Peru, is a migrant of the Arizona form, so that on the basis of priority this name replaces *M. l. swarthi* van Rossem for the race occurring in the United States.—A. H. M.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

NOVEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, November 18, 1937, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Kin-

sey in the chair and about sixty members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for October were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division were read. Names proposed for membership were: Grace Tompkins Sargent (Mrs. M. C. Sargent), Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, California, and Jane Nold, 83 Castro Street, San Leandro, California, both by E. L. Sumner through the Western Bird Banding Association.

Mr. Test read a letter from Major Allan Brooks dealing with the question of a possible closed season on duck hunting and suggesting other methods for waterfowl restoration. A bulletin issued by the Audubon Societies, entitled "Thirst on the Land," by William Vogt, was reviewed by Mr. Test. This pamphlet decries present wasteful drainage practices and suggests better methods for use of the land and water. After prolonged discussion of a number of the problems involved, it was moved and carried that the Northern Division also go on record as favoring a three-year closed season on all duck hunting.

Mr. Howard Twining spoke on "The Natural History of the Sierra Nevada Rosy Finch," the results of two summers of observation in Virginia Canyon, north of Tuolumne Meadows. Daily behavior, foraging habits, influence of predators, and a full account of breeding activities, nesting and development of the young, were presented in a pattern which might well be applied to the study of other bird species. Of the possible factors suggested to explain the restriction of this species to high altitudes, the most potent would seem to be safety of breeding places in summer, winter competition of other species at lower levels, and the bountiful food supply exposed on bare rock surfaces by slipping snow. Lantern slides fully illustrated the detailed observations.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

DECEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, December 23, 1937, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Kinsey in the chair and twenty-five members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for November were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division were read. An application for membership was read from Ross Hardy, 429 North Second East Street, Price, Utah, endorsed by William H. Behle.

Mr. Emlen, who is seeking an ecological explanation of the winter distribution of the crow in California, asked for observations on the presence or absence of the species and left questionnaire forms to be filled out by members having such information. Mr. Pease read a set of resolutions voicing the objections of the