

the drabest devotee of "factual" biology, allow himself to be irked! Certainly this swallow story is innocuous as compared with the mass of animal lore currently fed to the public, much of which directly or insidiously incites to thoughts of killing for "sport" or destruction as "vermin." The germ of truth that is there is no less elusive in one connection than in the other! No, our own reaction is not at all of the ruffled sort. Incidentally, we would advise anyone interested in the facts, to read Florence Merriam Bailey's delightful article (*Condor*, vol. 9, 1907, pp. 169-172, 2 figs.) written about the Cliff Swallows and White-throated Swifts as she herself observed them over thirty years ago at Mission San Juan Capistrano. It would appear, however, that the swallow tradition was not at that time current; it may have been dormant just then!—J. G.

We have been wondering whether it would not be a welcome move in behalf of the great majority of bird students if authors of state lists, faunal analyses, and local lists generally, would take pains to use, for all the birds they deal with, the best known, or most used, or A.O.U.-sponsored, names, scientific as well as vernacular. That is to say, let nomenclatural innovations be altogether avoided in contributions of primarily non-systematic aim. To make the point clearer, we would refer in illustration to Oberholser's recent "The Bird Life of Louisiana," an account of the avifauna of that state, wherein the lay reader, for whom the style of writing otherwise seems to be gaged, is confronted with a considerable number of new names and new or at least unfamiliar combinations of scientific names. This circumstance is inevitably more or less confusing not only to a host of beginning bird students but also to advanced ornithologists who happen to be specialized in some sub-field of study not systematic in nature. We ourselves look back to published papers of our own which we now see showed in this same regard poor taste, to put it mildly. Wouldn't it have been vastly better to have kept out of that character of paper all supposedly new or unusual names and nomenclatural comments, to present separately in technical papers, in form adapted for those few readers who are specially interested in such matters? Many proposed nomenclatural innovations prove never to "take"; that is, they prove not justified—are not adopted by subsequent thoroughgoing group revisers or by the A.O.U. Committee. Meanwhile, the "synonymy" of each species affected has grown—citations in the literature made harder to run down. Perhaps every ten years is often enough for the general ornithologist to be expected to bring his avian terminology "down to date." Nomenclature should be so employed as to *aid* in the advances of ornithology; in itself it is *not scientific ornithology*.—J. G.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS
NORTHERN DIVISION

OCTOBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, October 27, 1938, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Emlen in the chair and about one hundred members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for September were read, approved, and later corrected. Names proposed for membership were: Lowell Adams, Yosemite, California, and (Miss) Phyllis Neale, Avenal High School, Kings County, California, by Thomas L. Rodgers; Mrs. Gilbert Newton Lewis (Mary H.), 2728 Belrose Avenue, Berkeley, by Amelia S. Allen; Ned W. Stone, 2418 California Street, Berkeley, by Margaret W. Wythe.

The secretary read a letter from W. B. Davis, Superintendent of Recreation of the City of Berkeley, to whom suggestions regarding the bird refuge at the Aquatic Park had been sent, as authorized at the previous meeting. Mr. Davis' letter stated that there were no immediate plans to change the natural sanctuary which had developed in the small pool south of the park, and that boats would be kept away from the island by means of a wooden boom so that waterfowl might feed there undisturbed.

Field reports were opened by Mr. Dixon, with the unusual record of seventeen Townsend Solitaires in sight at one time, feeding on gooseberries on Telescope Peak, Death Valley National Monument. In travelling toward Zion National Park, by way of Kern Basin, he had seen five Road-runners in less than five miles. Mrs. Mead reported a Western Gnatcatcher, September 25, feeding in the manzanita bushes at Fallen Leaf Lake, elevation about 6300 feet. Townsend Solitaires were seen feeding on juniper berries, as they had two years previously, but only one was in full song this year. A novel experience was related by Dr. Painton. While proceeding slowly on an upgrade near Mt. Herman, he noticed two California Woodpeckers fighting in the road, while a third looked on from a little distance. He centered his car so that the wheels would not touch the fighters, and so intent were they that they permitted the car to pass over them without pausing in their altercation.

Mr. Joseph S. Dixon, speaker of the evening, chose as his topic, "Birds of Crater Lake National Park," answering most interestingly the question so frequently asked him by prospective visitors, "What birds will I find there?" The deep lake occupies the crater of an extinct volcano, formerly a large member of the Cascade range comparable to Rainier or Shasta; the cone shows evidences of glaciation on its slopes. The effect of the mountain on bird populations, both past

and present, has been an important one. A subject of primary interest to Mr. Dixon has been the faunal relationships of the birds inhabiting the mountain. Whether they are with the Cascade fauna to the north, humid coast to the west, Great Basin to the east or Sierran to the south cannot be surmised for any species until specimens have been taken.

Mr. Dixon's work has been supplemented by that of Loye Miller and Alden Miller in 1926 and 1927, and more recently by that of Ralph Huestis and Elmer Aldrich.

Records of the migration of Canada and Snow geese, kept by Mr. Frost, show a definite route southward along the coast to a point opposite the mountain, where a sharp turn is invariably made, the geese then proceeding eastward to the Klamath Basin. The Crater Lake area is still a fruitful one for bird observers, and there is ample opportunity for adding to the present list of 113 recorded species.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

NOVEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, November 17, 1938, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with sixty-six members and guests present. In the absence of both president and vice-president, Mr. Kinsey kindly took the chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for October were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for August and September were read by title. Names proposed for membership were: David R. Kinkead, 330 Castilleja Avenue, Palo Alto, California, by Wilbur V. Henry; Mrs. Mary Jane Nichols, Route 2, Box 194, Tucson, Arizona, by Alden H. Miller; James Rooney, Route 7, Yakima, Washington, by J. Grinnell (per A. H. M.); Mrs. George Burwell Wright, 2822 Piedmont Avenue, Berkeley, by Mrs. J. T. Allen.

Mr. Dyer, speaking for Mr. Covell, stated that the clearing out of all underbrush in lower Diamond Canyon, as a fire prevention measure, was destroying one of the last primitive areas extending deeply into Oakland. The effect on bird life, as well as the creation of an erosion hazard, is obvious. It was moved and carried that the secretary be instructed to write a letter to Mr. Fred Carlson, Fire Marshal of Oakland, in full charge of the work, offering the Club's services in an advisory capacity, with a view to preventing further destruction of similar valuable natural areas. It was moved and carried, further, that any member or members wishing to call in person at the Fire Marshal's office, regarding this matter, be authorized to do so as official representatives of the Club. [Letter from the Recording Secretary is appended.]

Mr. E. L. Sumner, Sr., reported a White-throated Sparrow at his home in the Santa Cruz Mountains, October 30, and another on November 1. Several additional reports were given for this species, and it was suggested that the records might indicate increase either in numbers of birds or of observers. Mr. Cain announced that the Sears Point Cut-off would soon be opened as a free road, without toll, and speculated as to what effect the expected increase in traffic might have on the birds of the vicinity. Recently, with a party of boy scouts on this road, he had observed numerous Egrets, four Short-eared Owls, and Avocets estimated to number around 500.

Four speakers contributed to the evening's program. Mr. Alden H. Miller reported briefly on the Washington meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, held October 17-21. He spoke of the large attendance, the fine quality of the papers presented, and the privilege of meeting such well known figures in ornithology as Leonhard Stejneger, Witmer Stone and Frank Chapman. Mr. David Johnson described the work of two expeditions by members of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology to the Providence Mountains and nearby ranges at the California-Nevada-Arizona borders, in December-January 1937-38, and May-June 1938. The possibility of isolation and speciation in these desert mountains was suggested and the large number of northern species wintering there noted. Mr. Frederick H. Test related some of the highlights of a trip into eastern Oregon, by a party from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, last summer. He gave a word-picture of the birds to be found in the various types of plant association encountered there, in country ranging from desert plains to forested mountains. Mr. Thomas L. Rodgers demonstrated effectively the nuptial note of the male Anna Hummingbird, using only the outer tail feathers mounted on a bamboo rod. Just what position is taken by these feathers as the bird produces the sound at the bottom of its dive remains to be shown by slow motion pictures.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

1626 Le Roy Avenue,
Berkeley, California,
December 16, 1938.

Mr. Fred Carlson, Fire Marshal,
Fire Prevention Bureau,
City Hall,
Oakland, California.

Dear Mr. Carlson:

Attention of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club has been called to the work of clearing parts of Diamond Canyon as a fire prevention measure. Since Diamond Canyon is one of the few remaining primitive areas extending deeply into Oakland, and since such areas are of primary importance to the native

bird life, the Cooper Club feels justified in taking an active interest in the project.

There are always many aspects to such measures; we should like to bring to the fore certain of them which may have been overlooked. Destruction of the natural cover of such slopes necessarily involves the destruction of the habitat of many bird species which are of interest to residents of the vicinity, as well as to organizations such as the Boy Scouts. Then, too, there might be question as to the effect of the coming rainy seasons on the bared slopes; whether an erosion hazard has been substituted for a fire hazard. Finally, in this day of a cigarette-flinging motor-ing public, it might be asked whether anything short of paving the whole countryside with concrete would constitute really effective fire prevention. Briefly, does the amount of protection from fire afforded by these measures compensate for the complete disfiguration of the area from the nature-student's point of view?

Since the value of lands from the naturalist's viewpoint may not always be apparent to those approaching the problem from other aspects, the Cooper Club would like to offer its services in an advisory capacity, in view of any possible future work projected along these lines. There are members well acquainted with conservation and management of wildlife resources, who would be willing to apply their knowledge and experience to the present case. The work in lower Dimond Canyon has of course progressed nearly to completion. However, we should like to ascertain whether any work of a similar nature has been proposed for the few remaining natural areas in the vicinity of Oakland.

It is to be hoped that, through co-operation of the various interests involved, some agreement may be reached, so that necessary fire prevention measures may be carried out, without damage to wooded areas.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) FRANCES CARTER,
Recording Secretary,
Northern Division,
Cooper Ornithological
Club.

DECEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, December 15, 1938, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Emlen in the chair and forty members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for November were read and with correction approved. An application for membership was read from Mr. (Henry) Shirl Coleman, Pioche, Nevada, endorsed by William H. Behle.

Mr. Miller read a communication from Mr.

Laidlaw O. Williams, district chairman of a committee of the National Association of Audubon Societies for gathering data on the White-tailed Kite, with a view to its conservation. Co-operation of the Cooper Club was asked. All records will be held in strict confidence and should be sent to Mr. Williams at Box 453, Carmel, California. Mr. Miller also announced that copies of Part I of The Life History of the Song Sparrow, by Margaret Morse Nice, were available at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, at the price of \$1.50.

The president appointed as nominating committee for Division officers for the ensuing year: Mrs. J. T. Allen, Mr. Ernest I. Dyer, and Mr. Joseph Dixon, chairman.

Field reports were numerous. Mr. Dyer had noticed a White-throated Sparrow about his home in Piedmont ever since November 4. December 14 was his first date for the Varied Thrush. Mr. E. L. Sumner had observed a Black-chinned Hummingbird at La Jolla, California, on December 4. Mr. James Moffitt reported more ducks and geese throughout the Sacramento Valley than at any time since 1929-30. At Tomales Bay, 2 or 3 thousand Black Brant arrived on October 27, remaining only 2 weeks; again, on November 23 and 24 around 15 hundred were present. At Los Baños, on November 28 and 29, Mrs. Kelly found ducks and geese concentrated to a number approximating 700 thousand on 23 acres; Pintails, Shovellers and Green-winged Teal predominated. Mr. Emlen concurred in these observations, adding a record of some 350 thousand ducks, 80 per cent Pintails, at Suisun. Mrs. Allen had seen an unbanded European Widgeon on Lake Merritt December 13, and in a garden on Chabot Road in Oakland, a Virginia Rail. Dr. Painton counted 55 species as the reward of a birding trip from the Stanford campus to Searesville Lake, November 27. On the lake, 8 Whistling Swans (2 adult and 6 young) were present November 26.

The evening's speaker, Mr. Tracy I. Storer, presented a summary entitled "Recent Trends in the Study of Birds." Basing his outline on a review of past trends, Mr. Storer obtained a perspective on the whole field of ornithology and its history. Highlights in the account were: The natural and unnatural history of the ancients; the bringing in of specimens during the voyages of discovery; the Linnaean system of classification; first protective legislation in the late 1700's; the impetus lent by Darwin's work; earlier naturalists such as Catesby, followed by Baird, Brewer and Ridgway, and the magnitude of Audubon's contribution; the first A.O.U. Check-List in the middle 1880's; the work of C. Hart Merriam and Wells W. Cooke on migration; Forbes at Illinois and Beal of the Biological Survey on food habits; new tools in the camera and

automobile; banding as a technique for the study of individuals; the territoriality thesis; application of experimental techniques. Modern trends, discussed in some detail, may be considered in a word as the refining of techniques along many of the same lines. Examples are: The correlation of laboratory with field work in the study of ecology, including food and cover requirements, predators, sickness, and the relation of man and birds; photoperiodism and gonads; recording and accurate analysis of bird song as begun by Albert Brand. As for the future, the sky is the limit, concluded Mr. Storer.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

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 25, 1938, at 8 p.m., with about 80 members and guests present and Mr. McCoy presiding. The minutes of the September meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved. A telegram from Laura and Harold Bailey, in reply to the Club's congratulatory note, was read.

Mr. McCoy introduced Mr. James B. Dixon, whose subject, *The Life History of the Golden Eagle*, was presented largely in motion pictures. Mr. Dixon indicated that the real work of taking the pictures should be credited to his son, Ralph Dixon, and Mr. James Fassero, whom he introduced to the group.

In his introductory remarks Mr. Dixon explained that the pictures dealt with a pair of eagles which have nested on the Dixon family ranch ever since he was a boy. One of the pair has been replaced at least twice, but the remaining one in each case maintains the original feeding range. One female is known to have been one of the pair from 1903 to 1933. The birds have nested in sixteen different places on the ranch during those years. In 1938 the nest was located on a rocky cliff, and it is this nest which was photographed.

The pictures began with the two eggs in the nest and continued through the development of the one eaglet (the other egg having been apparently infertile) until it finally flew off the nest and away, approximately 66 days after hatching. The scenes included visits of the mother bird to the nest, as well as many interesting views of the young bird alone. A particularly interesting shot, which drew applause from the group, was a visit of a Costa Hummingbird to the nest when the eaglet was about 8 weeks old, the hummingbird hovering in mid-air about the eaglet, the

eaglet watching it intently. After the pictures Mr. Dixon answered several questions from members.

Adjourned.—HILDEGARDE HOWARD, *Secretary*.

NOVEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, on Tuesday, November 29, 1938, at 8 p.m., with Mr. McCoy presiding and about 125 members and guests present.

The minutes of the Southern Division for October were read and approved. Nine applications for membership were read, as follows: Ernest S. Booth, Department of Biology, Walla Walla College, College Place, Washington; John T. S. Hunn, 1218 Prospect Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey; and C. V. Duff, 1922 Tamarind Ave., Hollywood, Calif., all three proposed by W. Lee Chambers; John Frederick Wohnus, University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, Calif., by Loye H. Miller; Miss Kathryn May Peck, 144 West 9th St., Claremont, Calif., and Miss Elizabeth Irving Ordway, 730 Mayflower Road, Claremont, Calif., both proposed by Myrtle S. Edwards; Harry Lee Heaton, 3753 29th St., San Diego, Calif., by A. M. Ingersoll; D. M. Gorsuch, Regional Office, U. S. Forest Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico, by Mrs. A. Edward Ayer; and Franklin Goodrich Crawford, 1601 Edgewood Drive, Alhambra, Calif., by George Willett.

The president then introduced the speaker, Mr. Robert T. Moore, whose talk on the "Discovery of the first nest of the Tufted Jay, and other rare nests of northwestern Mexico" was accompanied by several excellent reels of motion pictures, largely in color. The pictures were taken in the lagunas and islands along the coast of Sinaloa, Mexico, and included views of nesting birds of about twenty species. Among these were beautiful scenes of the Roseate Spoonbill. This occurrence Mr. Moore believes to be the first record of the nesting of this species on the west coast of Mexico. The Tufted Jay was pictured both in color and in excellent black and white, which showed the markings of the bird to fine advantage. Among other species shown were the Louisiana Heron and Bancroft Night Heron, the Pink-headed Tanager, Fulvous Nightingale Thrush, Red-billed Redstart, and Blue Mockingbird.

At the completion of the films, Mr. Moore introduced Mr. Arthur Barr, his assistant and co-photographer, who related several interesting experiences of the trip. Mr. Chester Lamb who has collected with Mr. Moore for several years was also present and made a few remarks. The meeting concluded with questions to Mr. Moore and general discussion.

Adjourned.—HILDEGARDE HOWARD, *Secretary*.