

NOTES AND NEWS

The Fifty-seventh Annual Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, and at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, June 19-24, 1939, with a registered attendance of 248. A total of 30 scientific papers was read, many illustrated by colored slides or films. The three days of program sessions included a like number of evening entertainments, Open House at the Museum, the Annual Dinner, and business meetings of various sections. On Friday 108 ornithologists in attendance visited Point Reyes to study nesting colonies of aquatic birds on rocky islands along the Pacific Coast. On Saturday and Sunday, 42 visitors traveled to Point Lobos, Monterey County, and to the Hastings Research Area.

Officers elected for the new year were as follows: President, James P. Chapin, New York City; Vice-presidents, J. L. Peters, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and George Willett, Los Angeles; Secretary, Lawrence E. Hicks, Columbus, Ohio; Treasurer, Rudyerd Boulton, Chicago, Illinois; Council: P. A. Taverner, Ottawa, Canada, Ludlow Griscom, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Alden H. Miller, Berkeley, California.

The Brewster Medal was awarded posthumously to Dr. Witmer Stone for his two volumes on "The Birds of Old Cape May." Two Fellows, George Willett, Los Angeles, California, and Alden H. Miller, Berkeley, California, one Honorary Fellow, Oskar Heinroth, Berlin, Germany, and two Corresponding Fellows, G. C. A. Junge, Leyden, Netherlands, and David Lack, London, England, were elected.

In addition to 532 new Associate Members, 7 new Members were named: Paul Kellogg, Ithaca, New York; Wesley F. Kubichek, Washington, D. C.; Joseph A. Hagar, Marshfield Hills, Massachusetts; Emmet R. Blake, Chicago, Illinois; Ivan R. Tomkins, Savannah, Georgia; Louis W. Campbell, Toledo, Ohio; Owen J. Gromme, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The 1940 meeting will be held in Boston in October, and the 1941 meeting in Denver. In 1942 there will be a joint meeting in May at Philadelphia with the Tenth International Ornithological Congress.—LAWRENCE E. HICKS, *Secretary, American Ornithologists' Union.*

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

MAY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, May 25, 1939, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building,

Berkeley, with President Emlen in the chair and 75 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for April were read and approved. Names proposed for membership were: Torrey Lyons, Wake Island, care Pan-American Airways, Treasure Island, San Francisco, California, by J. Grinnell and E. R. Hall; Mrs. Frieda Abernathy, 2226 McGee Avenue, Berkeley, by Margaret W. Wythe.

Mr. Moffitt announced the schedule for the annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, to be held in Berkeley and San Francisco, June 19-24. Because of this meeting, there will be no June meeting of the Cooper Club. Meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Sixth Pacific Science Congress will also be held in the Bay region this summer. Mrs. Kelly reviewed Gayle Pickwell's recent book, "Birds," and spoke of its wealth of information and illustrations.

Field observations included reports of Cassin Kingbirds nesting in Arroyo Mocho, by Mrs. Saunders, and a Road-runner in Strawberry Canyon, by Mr. Taylor. Other members reported Cliff Swallows nesting in the Edwards Field grandstand in Berkeley, and Hudsonian Curlews eating crickets in a cut-over hay field.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. David Lack, co-leader of an expedition to the Galapagos Islands, under the auspices of the London Zoological Society and the Royal Society of London. The expedition's habit-studies of the unique group of ground-finches endemic to the Galapagos were the basis of Mr. Lack's talk. He discussed the curious speciation of these finch-like geospizids, showing that it could not be explained by differences in habitats, or by differences in breeding or feeding habits. The size and shape of bill vary strikingly between species, but the form of the bill seemed to be adaptive in only one species, the flower-probing *Geospiza scandens*. Actually, variations in bills seem to be even more important than differences in body size or color for recognition between species. Apparently the bills have been of primary importance in the speciation of the geospizids, differences in bills being retained because of their effectiveness in keeping groups apart.

Mr. Lack enriched his talk with much interesting information on the Galapagos Islands and their fauna. The tale of *Cactospiza* using a tool to push out burrowing insects was fully confirmed by the expedition's studies. The meeting concluded with discussion stimulated by Mr. Lack's excellent presentation.

Adjourned.—FRANK RICHARDSON, *Acting Secretary.*