

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.*

JULY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, July 27, 1939, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with Mr. Frederick H. Test presiding and more than 100 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division were read, approved and later corrected. Names proposed for membership were: J. R. Alcorn, R. R. 1, Box 19a, Fallon, Nevada, by E. R. Hall; Mrs. Enid K. Austin, 541 Boulevard Way, Piedmont, California, by Junea W. Kelly; Dale K. Barnes, 1102 Neilson Street, Albany, California, and Carl Frederick Haynke, 813 San Carlos Avenue, Albany, California, both by Alden H. Miller; R. Frank Hedges, Box 1348, Soil Conservation Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico, by Lawrence V. Compton.

The following resolutions were read and unanimously adopted:

"WHEREAS, on May 29, 1939, the death of Joseph Grinnell deprived the Cooper Ornithological Club of its most revered and distinguished member, who was President of the Board of Governors and Editor of the *CONDOR*, and

"WHEREAS, since the first of the century Joseph Grinnell unstintingly served the Club and for a generation guided the study of vertebrate animals in western North America, and

"WHEREAS, his friendship and enthusiasm was enjoyed and deeply appreciated by a remarkably large number of members who had benefited in the pursuit of their studies and avocations by his direct assistance, through his wise teachings, or by the example of his painstaking work,

"BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Cooper Ornithological Club express its profound regret in the untimely loss of this most valued member who was in truth the leader of the Club and a man of remarkable endowments, and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these resolutions be sent to the family with the expression of the deepest sympathy of the Club."

Dr. Painton announced the election of the following new officers at the June meeting of the Stanford Chapter: President, Mr. John Applegarth; Secretary, Miss Marion Theobald.

Mr. David G. Nichols reported some observations upon Steller Jays, made from a blind at 900 feet elevation in the Berkeley hills. Mr. Milton Ray gave nesting records from high altitudes in the Sierra Nevada, commenting upon the remarkable lack of snow, which made many passes accessible by early May instead of late June. Mr. Ray also displayed two photographs, taken in London, of a mounted specimen of the Great Auk, which was recently acquired by the American Museum. Mrs. Kirsten Hofgaard showed a small collar made from cormorant skin and

used by Greenland Eskimos as a removable lining for fur garments in winter.

Professor Arthur A. Allen, the speaker of the evening, presented, "Some Experiences in Natural Color Photography of Birds." He spoke of the Cornell University project of recording bird songs on film. The first pictures accompanying these records were in black and white. The trip to California in May of this year gave opportunity for making 16 mm. colored motion pictures of such birds as herons in Louisiana, Roseate Spoonbills in Texas and Coppery-tailed Trogons in Arizona. The sound track had been placed on one of these reels, and a "preview" of this pioneer work was enjoyed by the audience. Among the advantages of color film in bird photography were mentioned the effect of perspective, color of nest materials and the iridescence of feathers, all of which are difficult to obtain in hand coloring of film. A semi-slow-motion may be used with good effect. Dr. Allen answered various technical questions asked by members.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

APRIL.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Los Angeles Museum on Tuesday, April 25, 1939, at 8 p.m., with Mr. Sidney Peyton in the chair and sixty-three members and guests present.

The minutes of the Southern Division for March were read and approved. One application for membership was read: Ida S. DeMay, 3119 Hope St., Huntington Park, California, proposed by Loyer Miller.

There being no further business, Mr. Peyton called upon Dr. Loyer Miller to proceed with the program of the evening. Dr. Miller's talk, "Some Off-shore Birds of Southern California," dealt with his several trips with members of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography on their survey of the waters from San Luis Obispo south to San Diego; the trips extend off-shore 150 to 200 miles. The surveys have been taken quarterly for a period of two years, over a definite course charted on four transecting lines, with thirty-three stations along these lines where stops are made for investigation. Dr. Miller was present on four of these trips, in the course of which he has made interesting and valuable observations on the bird life. In his usual entertaining manner he presented the results of these observations, particularly as they pertained to conditions out beyond the islands.

Following the talk, Dr. Miller answered several questions from members.

Adjourned.—HILDEGARDE HOWARD, *Secretary*.

MAY.—The May meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was an outing meeting held in Castaic Canyon on Sunday, May 28, 1939. About fifty members and guests followed the signs which the Peytons had posted along the ten miles of canyon road leading to the meeting place at Cienaga Public Camp. Picnic lunches were embellished by coffee and ice cold orange juice furnished by the Peytons. Being the occasion of Mr. Willett's birthday, he was presented with a birthday cake from the Southern Division.

A short business meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by President Peyton. The minutes of the April meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved. Seven applications for membership were read, as follows: Mrs. Maybelle Stalleup, Montagne, California, proposed by John McB. Robertson; Carl B. Koford, 1517 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, California, by J. R. Pemberton; Sam D. Hinton, 421 Wing St., Glendale, California, by Loye Miller; and Roger T. Peterson, 1006 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y., Will A. Friend, Los Altos, California, and Donald Culross Peattie, 224 Buena Vista Road, Santa Barbara, California, all proposed by W. Lee Chambers.

Mr. Clinton G. Abbott called attention to a bill (A. B. no. 1365) which has passed the California State Assembly legalizing the killing of sea lions in California waters. He indicated the importance of contacting our state senators and making known our opposition to the bill in order to prevent its passage in the senate.

The deaths of A. W. Anthony and Witmer Stone were announced.

Adjourned.—HILDEGARDE HOWARD, *Secretary.*

JUNE.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Los Angeles Museum on Tuesday evening, June 27, 1939, with President Peyton in the chair and about forty members and guests present. The regular secretary being absent, the secretarial duties were performed by George Willett.

The minutes of the May meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved. The following applications for membership in the club were read: Albert F(ranklin) Ganier, 2112 Woodlawn Drive, Nashville, Tennessee, proposed by John McB. Robertson; William Longhurst, Box 5500, Sonoma Highway, Napa, California, Rudyard Boulton, Field Museum, Chicago, Illinois, both by W. Lee Chambers.

Eastern visitors introduced by the President were Dr. James P. Chapin, of the American Museum of Natural History, President of the American Ornithologists' Union, who called at-

tention to the plans for a meeting of the International Ornithological Congress to be held in Philadelphia in 1942; Mr. Rudyerd Boulton, of the Field Museum, who spoke of the similarity of southern California to some parts of Africa; and Mr. George H. Lowery, Jr., of Louisiana State University, who told of a trip made that day to the haunts of the California Condor in Ventura County, and expressed his satisfaction in being one of the few ornithologists who had seen both this bird and the Ivory-billed Wood-pecker on their breeding grounds.

Dr. Loye Miller gave an account of the recent American Ornithologists' Union meeting in the San Francisco Bay region, mentioning particularly the excellent pictures shown of California Condor, White-tailed Kite and Coppery-tailed Tropic. W. Lee Chambers announced that the proposed bill to open season on the sea lion in California waters had been defeated in the State Senate. Dr. Miller expressed belief that the defeat of this bill would probably be beneficial to the sea otters and sea elephants along our coast. John McB. Robertson reported the appearance of a Cactus Wren at Buena Park, Orange County, where the species had not been seen for many years. A single bird built a nest in a cactus plant in a garden and used it for a roosting place. Robert Hannum spoke of a light-colored phase of the English Sparrow apparently developing at Palms, Los Angeles County; about twenty-five per cent of the sparrows in the vicinity of his residence are of this light phase. A. O. Reis gave an account of the nesting of some species of birds in the Sierra Nevada this year. Nests of Cassin Purple Finches and Hermit Warblers were found situated under loose bark on lodgepole pines. A number of nests of the Gray Flycatcher that were found contained only two eggs each.

Mr. Gilbert spoke of two recent visits to the Malheur Lake Bird Reservation and told of the gradual increase of nesting birds in that locality. S. B. Peyton told of Condors, hummingbirds, Black Swifts and Purple Martins seen in the Ventura Mountains; also of an apparent increase in numbers of White-tailed Kites in Ventura County where they are frequently seen hunting over alfalfa fields. Mr. Crawford reported a colony of Least Terns on mud flats of Alamitos Bay; many nests contained only one egg or young. He also recorded Marbled Godwits on June 25. C. V. Duff reported three nests of Florida Gallinule, containing six eggs each, found recently in Kern County. Mr. Hannum spoke of the habits of Elf Owls in captivity. They are apparently entirely insectivorous, refusing to eat mice that are offered them.

Adjourned.—GEORGE WILLETT, *Acting Secretary.*