

NOTES AND NEWS



Fig. 78. Charles E. Hellmayr, Associate Curator of Birds, Field Museum of Natural History. Author of the later parts of the "Catalogue of Birds of the Americas."

REVIEW

Recently I have heard recordings of bird songs some of which are, frankly, good. But there is no way to replace the song of the bird as heard first-hand, so that all such bird records are inadequate, to my mind at least. Recorders of bird music may well be surprised at the much more pleasing effect of a recording issued by the University of California Press (Berkeley and Los Angeles) of Dr. Loye Miller's informal talk on "Music in Nature." Dr. Miller illustrates his discussion of bird talk and song, the characteristics of sound and music (time, tone, tune, timbre, touch), with his own vocal and whistled imitations, and the whole performance is not only as good as many actual bird recordings, but it brings the voice, thought, and personality of our beloved Cooper Club member as well. Highlights of the imitations are the four calls and the song of the California Quail, and the songs of the creeper, wolf, Spotted Screech Owl, tree frog, and meadowlark. Although I have not heard the Sandhill Crane, I am greatly impressed with Dr. Miller's three-toned imitation, combining a tongue flutter, a whistle and a grunt! I cannot imagine a more delightfully original talk than this. Dr. Miller's system of analyzing sound is all his own (musicians may throw up their hands at

the term "touch" applied to music, meaning *accent* and *inflection*). I do not agree strictly with some of his imitations: the grace note is omitted from the horned owl's hoot, the inflections used in the Russet-backed Thrush call and poor-will song are not as I have heard them, nor does his chickadee's song have the usual time intervals. But his concern is not in giving strict imitations; it is with interesting bird students in appreciating birds through sound as well as sight. Conversing with birds not only has great practical values in facilitating the taking of specimens and studying territorial responses, but is most pleasing, and at times really exciting, as anyone who has called up a Spotted Owl will admit! I advise the bird student who is eager to take up Dr. Miller's challenge to go out and converse with birds to be patient. It took me months to get that "very low falsetto" for the horned owl, but my immeasurably increased knowledge and enjoyment of horned owls since then has certainly made the effort worthwhile.—JOE T. MARSHALL, JR.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

APRIL.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, April 23, 1942, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, with Vice-president R. M. Bond in the chair and about 35 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for March were read and approved. Three names were proposed for membership: Marjorie Lee Guest, 4403 Marlborough Drive, San Diego, California, and Telford Hindley Work, 587 Alvarado Row, Stanford University, California, both by Alden H. Miller; Thomas Allen Smith, 843 Indian Rock Avenue, Berkeley, by Amelia S. Allen. A report of the sixteenth annual meeting of the Cooper Club at San Diego, April 3 to 5, was received from the secretary of the Southern Division, Jack C. von Bloeker, Jr.

Milton Seibert opened field observations with the report that a mockingbird in east Oakland had been singing for several weeks. He had noted the nest of a Red-breasted Nuthatch April 12. Mr. Alden Miller said that a Red-breasted Nuthatch west of the Life Sciences Building had been giving the call associated with nesting. Mrs. Kelly had recorded a Tolmie Warbler in Garber Park on April 21. Mrs. Allen was able to give April 7 as the date of their arrival. She said the Townsend Solitaire in Strawberry Canyon was still present on April 18. At the Alvarado ponds on April 11 she had seen 8 Black-necked Stilts.

Two Burrowing Owls were seen on a near-by fence. Mrs. Bracelin reported that the Western Flycatcher had arrived on the campus on Easter Sunday (April 5) and at Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, a day later.

Mr. Frank A. Pitelka spoke on "Territory and Related Problems in Hummingbirds" (see pages 189-204 of this issue of the Condor).

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

MAY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, May 28, 1942, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, with President E. Lowell Sumner, Jr., in the chair and about 35 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for April were read and approved. Three names were proposed for membership: Otto William Geist, University of Alaska, P. O., College, Alaska, by Hilda W. Grinnell; Miss Betty Hammerly, 1142 Amador Avenue, Berkeley, by Mrs. H. P. Bracelin; Albert John Wool, 147 Lexington Avenue, Redwood City, California, by Alden H. Miller.

Mrs. Bracelin read a personal letter from Florence Merriam Bailey, written at the time of the death of her husband, Vernon Bailey. It was unanimously decided that the Club send resolutions of sympathy to Mrs. Bailey.

The program of the evening was devoted to field notes. Mr. Walton Breed introduced himself as a member attending the Northern Division for the first time. From May 20 to 24 he had carried out detailed observations on a pair of Sparrow Hawks which were exceedingly active about the Berkeley Inn and the Medico-Dental Building in spite of the Telegraph Avenue traffic. Milton Seibert presented data on nesting in the Livermore region. His last local date for the Gambel Sparrow was May 3, and a Golden-crowned Sparrow was recorded on the same day. Mr. Harwell brought an interesting list from the Transition Zone of Napa County, which resembles the association in Yosemite; included were Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Robin, Mountain Quail, Red-bellied Hawk and Anthony Green Heron. Mrs. Allen commented on strange songs uttered by Spotted Towhees, in Strawberry Canyon and Hamilton Gulch, Berkeley, and at Boulder Creek, Santa Cruz County.

Dr. Haley gave a less recent observation. He remembered, at the age of 6 or 7 years, being taken by his father to see 3 Passenger Pigeons, in a trap at a railroad east of the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Dr. Ritter, he said, had in early days seen the pigeons nesting.

President Sumner announced with regret that

Vice-president R. M. Bond would soon be transferred to Portland, to the new headquarters of the Soil Conservation Service. Mr. Bond presented Sally, a native of Colorado. She is a young Prairie Falcon, trained by the Freshman Dean at Colorado College.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

JUNE.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, June 25, 1942, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, with President E. Lowell Sumner, Jr., in the chair and 41 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for May were read and approved and minutes of the Southern Division for April were read. Two names were proposed for membership: George A. Bartholomew, Biological Laboratories, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, by Alden H. Miller; and Ernest B. Woon, Route 1, Box 259, Gilroy, California, by Hilda W. Grinnell.

President Sumner read a letter of sympathy to Florence Merriam Bailey written by a committee consisting of Joseph Dixon, chairman, Robert Orr, and Seth B. Benson. Mrs. Grinnell reviewed "Ornithologists of the United States Army Medical Corps" by Edgar Erskine Hume.

Mrs. Kelley opened the Field Notes with a report of a pair of Audubon Warblers feeding an almost full grown young at Kentfield, Marin County, on June 14. Joe T. Marshall, Jr., found nearly grown creepers at Sequoia Park on June 21. Robert W. Storer reported a Sparrow Hawk nest in a hole in the front of a brick building on Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, between Channing Way and Haste Street. This is probably the nest of the pair reported on by Mr. Walton Breed at the May meeting. Mr. Frank Scott mentioned his having seen ivory-billed woodpeckers and whooping cranes on his recent trip across the continent.

President Sumner then introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr. Joe T. Marshall, Jr., who gave a paper on "Some Birds of El Salvador." Mr. Marshall spent five months, from December to May, in El Salvador with an expedition sponsored by the University of California. Approximately one-fourth of the birds encountered were species which are resident both in the United States and El Salvador, another fourth were wintering species which breed in the United States, another fourth were species closely related to North American forms, and the remaining fourth were unique to tropical America. Among the more exotic birds obtained were tinamous, curassows, trogons, motmots, woodhewers, manakins, and honey creepers. Mr. Marshall il-

lustrated his talk with a representative series of bird skins which were examined with much interest after the close of the meeting.

Adjourned.—ROBERT W. STORER, *Acting Secretary*.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

MAY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Tuesday, May 26, 1942, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 145, Allan Hancock Foundation, Los Angeles, with President Sherwin F. Wood in the chair and 97 members and guests present. Minutes of the Southern Division for April were read and approved. The following applications for membership were read: Gus F. Augustson, Allan Hancock Foundation, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, proposed by Jack C. von Bloeker, Jr.; Frank J. Hinds, 922 Academy, Kalamazoo, Michigan, proposed by Josselyn van Tyne; and Clinton McBee, Prosser, Washington, proposed by Stanley G. Jewett.

President Wood then introduced Mr. Ed N. Harrison and Mrs. Frances S. Roberts, of Encinitas, California, who presented their very excellent Kodachrome motion picture, entitled "Birds of the Pacific Coast." The first half of the film illustrated the nesting habits of the Spotted Sandpiper, Nighthawk, and Townsend Solitaire, and the latter half showed the winter activities of ducks, geese, and swans at the Tule Lake Refuge, Siskiyou County, California. A sincere expression of appreciation was extended by the Southern Division to Mr. Harrison and Mrs. Roberts for their important work in permanently recording for science the life histories of these birds.

Adjourned.—JACK C. VON BLOEKER, JR., *Secretary*.

JUNE.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Tuesday, June 30, 1942, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 145, Allan Hancock Foundation, Los Angeles, with President Sherwin F. Wood in the chair and 104 members and guests present. Minutes of the Southern Division for May, 1942, were read and approved. The following applications for membership were read: Mary Louise Fagley, Laboratory of Ornithology, Fernow Hall, Ithaca, New York, proposed by Allan R. Phillips; David J. Howell, 4135 Regnan Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif., proposed by Adrian J. van Rossem; and Dr. Frederick Kline, 3922½ Wisconsin Place, Los Angeles, Calif., proposed by Jack C. von Bloeker, Jr.

The following resolutions concerning the death of William A. Bryan, Honorary Member of the Club, were presented:

Whereas, in the death of William Alanson Bryan, a member of the Cooper Ornithological Club since 1921 and an Honorary Member since 1940, this organization has lost a distinguished member and steadfast friend, and

Whereas, his interest in the field of zoology resulted in the production of numerous publications of outstanding scientific value on the fauna of the Hawaiian Islands and other localities, and later on led to his connection with the Los Angeles Museum, which, under his directorship, achieved wide reputation as a scientific institution,

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club expresses its sorrow at this loss to the Club and to the science of ornithology, and

Be it further resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased, and that another copy be spread upon the minutes of this organization.

Upon motion by George Willett, seconded by Dr. Louis B. Bishop, and unanimously carried, the resolutions were adopted.

A recommendation for election of Harold M. Michener and Josephine R. Michener, of Pasadena, California, to Honorary Membership in the Cooper Ornithological Club, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to ornithology through the medium of bird banding, was read before the Southern Division. The Secretary was instructed to transmit a copy of these nominations to the Corresponding Secretary of the Northern Division.

In response to a call for recent observations, J. S. Appleton reported seeing three California Condors feeding in the Simi Valley approximately two weeks ago.

President Wood then introduced the speaker of the evening, Dr. John S. Garth, of the Allan Hancock Foundation, University of Southern California. Dr. Garth gave an interesting lecture entitled, "Oceanic Birds of the Southeastern Pacific," based upon his experiences and observations as a member of the Hancock Pacific Expeditions to Central and South America. His topic was illustrated with 80 photographic slides and three reels of motion pictures taken on expeditions to the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, and the bird islands of Peru.

An invitation was extended to everyone present to visit the laboratory of ornithology in Room M-231 after the close of the meeting. Specimens representing species referred to in the evening's lecture, which were collected by Granville P. Ashcraft on the 1938 and 1939 Hancock expeditions, were arranged in the laboratory for close inspection by interested persons.

Adjourned.—JACK C. VON BLOEKER, JR., *Secretary*.