

NOTES AND NEWS



Fig. 48. A. J. van Rossem, President of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club, and Curator of the Dickey Collections, University of California, Los Angeles.

At a recent meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union in New York the following were elected to full membership: Robert P. Allen, Richard M. Bond, Maurice G. Brooks, Amelia R. Laskey, Eugene P. Odum, William H. Phelps, Charles W. Walker.

Dr. Harvey I. Fisher of the editorial staff of the Condor leaves Berkeley in January to take a position in the Zoology Department at the University of Hawaii.

We note in the recent report of the Committee on Bird Protection of the American Ornithologists' Union (*Auk*, 61, 1944:634) recommendation for special restriction on collecting of the California Clapper Rail. Although the condition of this rail need be watched, its numbers are still large, as ornithologists in the San Francisco Bay region are well aware. Possibly more critical is the status of the Light-footed Clapper Rail of southern California. On the other hand the White-tailed Kite is in real danger in California. Yet the Com-

mittee does not recommend as rigid protection for it as for the rails. Probably in California the position of the kite is quite as precarious as that of the California Condor.—A.H.M.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

JULY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, July 27, 1944, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, with President Robert C. Miller in the chair and about 50 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for March were read by title; those for April were read. F. Bert Fernoff, 1503 Central Bank Bldg., Oakland 12, Calif., was proposed for membership by Joseph S. Dixon; Wade Fox, Jr., Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, was proposed by Frank Pitelka.

Alden Miller made a motion, which was passed unanimously, that the secretary send the best wishes of the Club to Mrs. Amelia S. Allen and their sincere regrets for her illness. Nesting on June 3 of Hooded Orioles in a palm on the Hayward High School grounds was reported by Amy Rhinehart. She also reported Western Gulls nesting under the Bay Bridge.

Mr. Joseph S. Dixon, Field Naturalist of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, gave an interesting account of "Spring Birding at Crater Lake" in the period from May 10 to June 8 of this year. He noted the unusually late nesting of birds because of delayed cold weather; nearly all the "early nesters" used holes. Among the "high spots" of the bird observations on the beaver ponds were: nesting Wood Ducks, Oregon Ruffed Grouse in a cottonwood swamp where it is too dry for beaver, and a male Pileolated Woodpecker trying to attract a mate. Mr. Dixon's remarks were illustrated with beautiful Kodachrome slides of the region which showed the habitats of the birds he mentioned.

Adjourned.—ALICE S. MULFORD, *Recording Secretary*.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

JUNE.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Tuesday, June 27, 1944, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 145, Allan Hancock Foundation, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, with A. J. van Rossem presiding.

Minutes of the annual outdoor meeting of

April 30, 1944, were read and approved. There was no meeting during May because the regular time fell upon a holiday. Minutes of the Northern Division for March and April were read by title.

Applications for membership were read from the following: Miss Ellen F. Kidd, 488 Seventeenth St., San Bernardino, Calif., proposed by Mrs. Josephine C. Vaughn; Arthur L. Meugens, 179 Olive St., Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, James Harvey Phelps, Casual Post Office, Fort Mason, Calif., and John Robert Harris, 120 West 6th St., San Dimas, Calif., all proposed by W. Lee Chambers.

Reporting on members in the armed services, George Willett said Dr. Sherwin F. Wood and Howard Cogswell were now in the South Seas, 1st Lieut. Kenneth E. Stager was with Chinese troops in Burma, and that Reed Morrin had been shot down over German territory where his parachute landed on top of a tree. He escaped and is now stationed in Santa Monica.

Mr. Willett also reported that young Killdeers, hatched on the roof of a University of Southern California building, were having great difficulty in finding food there and could not get down to the ground. A. J. van Rossem reported that Mr. W. J. Sheffler had just hatched in his Los Angeles aviary for the first time young Vermillion Flycatchers from a nest made in thick shrubbery instead of the usual open situations. His Western and Mountain bluebirds were proving so pugnacious in captivity that they killed many birds of other species.

Speaking on the subject of "Desert Animals," Melville Lincoln, Curator of Habitat Groups, Los Angeles County Museum, gave a very interesting description of the technique of making taxonomic displays and of gathering the material for them. His talk was illustrated by Kodachrome movies of the collecting and studying of the Nelson Mountain Sheep in the White Mountains, north of Death Valley. That such animals in early spring can use green vegetation without any necessity of drinking water was one of his observations.

Adjourned.—WALTER W. BENNETT, *Secretary*.

JULY.—President A. J. van Rossem called to order the regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club at 8:15 p.m., Tuesday, July 25, 1944, in Room 145, Allan Hancock Foundation at the University of Southern California. About 30 members were present.

Minutes of the meeting of June 27, 1944, were read and approved. Minutes of the May meeting of the Northern Division were read. Appli-

cations for membership were read from Chester Dudley, 230 Cahill Ave., Turlock, Calif., proposed by Dr. Alden H. Miller; Ivan Steusloff, 245 North 13th St., Salem, Oregon, proposed by W. Lee Chambers; Willis Eugene Hill, 4445 48th St., San Diego 5, Calif., Richard Stiles Law Roddis, 4420 Braeburn Rd., San Diego 4, Calif., and James Riggs Sams, 4348 Hilldale Road, San Diego 4, Calif., all proposed by Clinton G. Abbott.

C. V. Duff reported the banding of two young Pigmy Owls and one young Wright Flycatcher on July 23, 1944, near Charlton Flats on the Angeles Crest highway near Los Angeles.

"Some Observations of Eastern and Southern Birds" was the subject of a very interesting talk by Major Clifford H. Pangburn, United States Army Air Corps, Randolph Field, Texas, in which he compared birds of densely congested New York City with those of the more sparsely populated West. He mentioned the migrating Hermit Thrush which flew into a New York florist shop to spend three spring days before going on northward. The following fall a Hermit Thrush, possibly the same one, voluntarily spent several days in the same shop. He described the important migrations at Rockport, Texas, between April 22 and April 25 each year.

Adjourned.—WALTER W. BENNETT, *Secretary*.

AUGUST.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Tuesday, August 29, 1944, at 8:00 p.m. with President A. J. van Rossem in the chair. In the absence of the Secretary, reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, and all other business was dispensed with, and Mr. van Rossem proceeded immediately with the paper of the evening, the subject of which was "Distribution of Bird Life in Northwestern Mexico." Following Mr. van Rossem's talk, which brought out many interesting anomalies of distribution, several questions were asked concerning correlation of color of birds and mammals on different islands in the Gulf of California with the nature of the flora.

At the request of Dr. Howard, Dr. John Comstock reported upon a letter received from Newton B. Drury of the National Park Service relative to removal of restrictions on grazing in the National Park System. Mr. Drury states that in a bill now pending in Congress the parks would be open to grazing "during the war emergency." Mr. van Rossem suggested that the bill be looked into before the next meeting of the Southern Division so that action could be taken on it at that time.

Adjourned.—HILDEGARDE HOWARD, *Secretary pro tem*.