

NOTES AND NEWS

Annual meetings of the Cooper Ornithological Club were discontinued during the war. It is planned to resume them with a meeting this spring at the University of California in Berkeley. Tentatively, May 17 to 19 are the dates set. Arrangements for out-of-town members will be announced later as problems of housing and transportation are clarified. It is urged that members begin now to prepare their contributions to the scientific program.—A.H.M.

On January 1, 1946, Margaret W. Wythe retired as Assistant Curator of Birds in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology after 32 years of service with that institution. Her successor is Frank A. Pitelka.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Cooper Ornithological Club in Los Angeles in October, 1945, Hildegard Howard was elected a member of the Board to fill the vacancy caused by the death of George Willett. She also succeeds him as Secretary of the Board.

Just as this issue goes to press we learn of the death of two eminent naturalists, Allan Brooks and Thomas Barbour. Not long before, the Club lost another of its honorary members, Joseph Mailliard.

Since Grinnell's "Distributional Summation of the Ornithology of Lower California" was published in 1928 (*Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool.*, 32:1-300), further field work and systematic studies have altered or in varying degree modified the then current treatments of the local species and races. At present A. J. van Rossem is engaged in preparing a revisionary distributional work on Baja California, which, barring unforeseen delay, should be completed in about a year. Although Baja California and adjoining islands will be the area of study in this report, the latter represents part of a prospective study of larger scope whose geographic limits are the Gulf drainage basin of the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. To this end, field work, in large part of preliminary or exploratory nature, has been conducted over the past several years in Baja California, Sonora, and southwestern Arizona. Work of a similar character, with emphasis on coastal and insular localities, is planned for 1946. No "priority" is claimed for any particular section of this area; on the contrary, Mr. van Rossem wel-

comes systematic or distributional studies which will lessen the amount of field work, which at best must be extensive.

In conjunction with Fisher and Baldwin's paper on problems facing conservationists on Midway Atoll and on southern Pacific islands in general (see page 3ff.), we quote from a short note in a recent issue of *California Fish and Game* (vol. 32, 1946:33): "On July 1, 1945, 60 10-week-old Mongolian pheasants were flown from the holding pens of the State Division of Fish and Game at Sacramento to Guam, in the Marianas Islands. This shipment was made at the request of Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, who was of the opinion that food, cover, and water conditions on Guam were ideal for pheasants. Other favorable factors were the absence of predators and the lack of other upland game birds to furnish competition." Additional details concerning the transfer are provided. It seems to us that the fact of this transfer as well as the questionable basis for it deserve general notice.

The Philippine Bureau of Science occupied the northwest corner of Taft Avenue and Calle Herran in Manila. It was an attractive group of modern buildings which housed the principal scientific collections in the Philippine Islands. The bird collection contained over 30,000 specimens including the types of forms described by McGregor and Manuel. Nothing now remains of all this except rubble and ashes. There is not a single ornithological specimen which can be salvaged. The metal trays which contained the study skins are twisted and blackened by fire. From the ashes of feathers and stuffing material I sifted wing and leg bones which were so friable that they crumbled at the slightest pressure. The heat which cremated the bird skins was so intense that light fixtures, specimen bottles, and photographic plates were melted into amorphous lumps of glass. The window frames are twisted and the roof has fallen in. Walls and cases are pocked and sieved with bullet holes. The library which was on the second floor of the main building was entirely destroyed.

However, during the Japanese occupation a collection of 500 skins representing 250 species of Philippine birds was "requested" as a gift to Premier Tojo. The skins selected were of common species and contained no types. The "request" was made by Dr. S. Hatai, the Japanese zoologist

in his capacity as scientific director in Manila. These 500 specimens represent the only remains of collections of the Bureau of Science. If they can be located, it seems proper that they form the nucleus of the ornithological collection when the Philippine Bureau of Science is rebuilt.

Dr. Canuto G. Manuel, ornithologist of the Philippine Bureau of Science, is alive and well at his home on Burgos Street in Pasay, a suburb of Manila. He may be addressed in care of the Department of Agriculture, Manila.

For more information concerning the fate of other collections and workers in the Philippines see Gressitt, *Science*, November 23, 1945, p. 537.

—CHARLES G. SIBLEY.

I do not dare venture an estimate of how many years it was that we of the Southern Division relied on seeing Dr. Guy C. Rich walk into the regular monthly meeting and take a seat right up in front. With opaque eyeshield pulled down close, head up, and face to the front, he moved steadily forward till a changed pressure on his arm by his devoted and long-time friend, John Appleton, guided him to a seat where he could put his whole attention on the proceedings. The sight of that Damon and Pythias pair was always an inspiration to the rest of us—his junior fellows.

It was some decades ago that I first met Dr. Rich as a bird lover. His failing eyesight had demanded that he take off his professional training like a worn-out coat and hang it away in the closet. The meagre vision which remained to him at that time was supplemented by a long brass telescope such as many a retired sea captain of old New England kept in his hilltop "pilot house" to train upon his life-time loves, the sailing ships, that passed in and out through the harbor mouth. It certainly could reach out for the birds and bring those out-door friends into the restricted range of his crippled eyesight.

The "far-seeing glass" of his genial nature and ready friendliness served in like manner to bring close to Guy Rich the other lovers of his birds. A time finally came when the old brass telescope failed to do its work and had to be folded and laid aside, but the warm friendships, never.

There is no reckoning the number of younger naturalists that he inspired nor is there published a record of material assistance given to that young organization just floundering in its adolescence, the Cooper Club of a few years ago. His quick ear caught an item in the "minutes" that should be corrected before they were declared "adopted." His sane counsel helped the newly formed Board of Governors over many rough spots; while the hospitality of his home, presided over by the incomparable Mrs. Rich, ministered to our physical comfort at many Board of Governors' breakfasts.

Those of us who knew and admired Guy Rich through the years of his failing sight never heard

a hint of complaint. He seemed always upheld by too brave a spirit for that. Certainly that serenity was an inspiration to us, his friends and fellows in ornithology.

I am glad that I knew Guy Rich. Now we must speak of him in the past tense but we can think and feel and appreciate in the ever present, with no constraining rule of the grammarian. Dr. Rich is to some of us still an active member of the Cooper Club.—LOYE MILLER.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

OCTOBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was called to order on October 30, 1945, at 8:00 p.m., by President Walter W. Bennett, in Room 145, Allan Hancock Foundation, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, with 60 members and guests present. The following names were proposed for membership: Adele Lewis Grant, 6019 Overhill Dr., Los Angeles 43, Calif., by Blanche Vignos; Gene Melvin Christman, 1017 No. Laurel Ave., Ontario, Calif., by Ralph H. Miller; Allen Joseph Duvall, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D.C., by John W. Aldrich; and Mildred Farquharson, 2338 Marshall Ave., St. Paul 4, Minn., Esther L. O'Connor, 4344 Locust, Kansas City 4, Mo., and Mrs. Verna Mace Zander, Dept. of Physiology, Colorado State College, Ft. Collins, Colo., by John McB. Robertson.

The speaker of the evening, Dr. Loye H. Miller, told of the recent discovery of a new specimen of the extinct Lucas Auk.

Adjourned.—DOROTHY E. GRONER, *Secretary*.

NOVEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was called to order on November 27, 1945, at 8:00 p.m., by President Walter W. Bennett, at the Allan Hancock Foundation, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, with 40 members and guests present. The following names were proposed for membership: Mrs. Cressa C. Hancock, 1138 Norman Ave., Las Vegas, Nev., Carl Leavitt Hubbs, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, Calif., Walter A. Ross, 626 W. Caldwell St., Compton, Calif., and Emerson W. Stanley, P. O. Box 131, Garden Grove, Calif., all by John McB. Robertson; Lawrence T. Stevens, 918 E. Haley St., Santa Barbara, Calif., by Ed N. Harrison, and Oliver Nelson Wells, Edenbank Farms, Sardis, B.C., Canada, by W. Lee Chambers.

A committee consisting of W. Lee Chambers, J. R. Pemberton and Loye H. Miller, submitted the following resolution which was passed by the