

THE CONDOR

A Magazine of
Western Ornithology
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Cooper Ornithological Club

J. GRINNELL, Editor, Berkeley, California
HARRY S. SWARTH, Associate Editor
J. EUGENE LAW }
W. LEE CHAMBERS } Business Managers

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EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The report of the Business Managers for 1911 show the finances of the Cooper Club to be in better condition than ever before. This gratifying condition of affairs reflects great credit upon Messrs. Law and Chambers, as well as upon Mr. A. B. Howell, who has rendered important assistance in the campaign for increased income.

The following is a summary of the Business Manager's report as drawn up by Mr. Chambers:

Cash balance on hand Jan. 11, 1911	\$ 163.97
Dues received during the year	710.13
Subscriptions during the year	204.10
Received from sale of "Avifaunas"	28.15
Received from sale of CONDORS	124.90
Received from advertising	38.50
Total receipts	\$1269.75
Expenses of printing CONDOR	\$ 712.82
Other expenses connected with CONDOR	191.93
Club expenses	31.65
Total expense	\$ 936.40
Balance on hand Jan. 2, 1912	\$ 333.35
Bills owing	151.40
Receipts for future business	154.20
Net balance	\$ 27.76

Mr. Adriaan van Rossem is now located at San Salvador, Salvador, C. A., where he will remain for an extended period of bird work. He will pay especial attention to the transients

and winter visitants from northern North America.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

DECEMBER—The December meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday evening, the 28th, in the office of H. J. Lelande, no. 246 Wilcox Building, Los Angeles, with President Morcom in the chair and the following members present: Messrs. H. T. Bohlman, W. Lee Chambers, F. S. Daggett, A. B. Howell, A. M. Ingersoll, C. C. Lamb, C. B. Linton, Loye Holmes Miller, R. M. Perez, Guy C. Rich, Howard Robertson, George Willett, J. E. Law.

The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved. On motion by Mr. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Miller and duly carried, the Secretary was instructed to cast the unanimous ballot of those present electing to active membership Messrs. Sherwood Coffin, Chas. L. Whitcher, Mrs. L. L. Fox, Miss Sarah R. Atsatt, Miss Elizabeth Heald, Messrs. G. W. Stevens, and Wm. A. Strong, nominated at previous meeting.

Applications were presented as follows: Frank M. Phelps, no. 212 E. 4th St., Elyria, Ohio, proposed by W. Lee Chambers; Lloyd Servis, Stockdale Ranch, Bakersfield, Calif., proposed by J. S. Douglas; Frank H. Renick, 1424 Belmont Ave., Seattle, Wash., proposed by J. Hooper Bowles.

On motion by Mr. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Willett and duly carried, the resignation of Mr. Wm. L. Holt was ordered laid on the table.

The Secretary read the minutes of the Northern Division, also a recent query in regard to the Crow, mailed by Henry W. Henshaw, Chief of the Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture. The circular asks a number of questions in regard to present status of the crow, and members will do well to procure this circular and furnish such data as they may have.

The meeting then proceeded to nomination of officers for 1912, resulting as follows: for President, G. Frean Morcom, nominated by Messrs. Willett and Lamb; for Vice-President, H. J. Lelande, nominated by Messrs. Robertson and Miller; for Secretary, J. E. Law, nominated by Messrs. Willett and Robertson.

On motion by Mr. Willett, seconded by Mr. Miller, and unanimously carried, a vote of thanks was extended to Messrs. Chambers and Howell for their active and successful work in increasing the membership of the Club.

On motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Lamb, a sincere vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Howard Robertson for his work in connection with the establishment of the new

Museum. This has been of exceptional value and is one of the elements that make the future of the Club especially bright.—J. E. LAW, *Secretary*.

JANUARY—The January meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held Thursday evening, January 25, 1912, in Room 246, Wilcox Building, President Morcom in the chair, with the following members present: Appleton, Blaine, Daggett, Fischer, Howell, Alphonse Jay, Lamb, Lelande, Miller, Pinger, Rich, Robertson, and Willett. Mr. Merston, author of "The Passenger Pigeon," was present as a visitor. Mr. Lelande was requested to act as temporary Secretary. The minutes of the December meeting were read and approved.

On motion by Miller, seconded by Willett, the Secretary was requested to cast the ballot for the officers nominated at the December meeting. Complying with this motion, the Secretary announced that he had cast a ballot for G. Frean Morcom for President, H. J. Lelande for Vice-President, J. E. Law for Secretary, and they were duly declared elected to serve for the ensuing year.

The following applicants for membership, whose names were proposed at the December meeting, were on motion by Willett, duly seconded and adopted, declared members of the Cooper Club: Frank M. Phelps, Lloyd Servis, and Frank H. Renick. Proposals for membership were received as follows: Chester Stock, 492 7th St., San Francisco, Calif., proposed by W. P. Taylor; Harry S. Hathaway, South Auburn, Rhode Island, proposed by F. E. Newbury; Clarence H. Kennedy, Vine Crest Ranch, Sunnyside, Washington, proposed by W. L. McAtee.

Resignations of members Louis J. Mitchell and Chas. Piper Smith were read, and on motion by Robertson, duly seconded and adopted, said resignations were accepted.

The Secretary read the report of Treasurer Chambers for the year ending December 31, 1911. Owing to the care taken in the preparation of the report, which contained a detailed account of all the business transacted during 1912, Robertson moved, seconded by Miller, that a vote of thanks be extended to Mr. Chambers, and that the Secretary forward report to the Northern Division.

A communication was read by Harry Swarth, Secretary of the Northern Division, suggesting that the Southern Division select a committee of five to act in conjunction with a like committee appointed by the Northern Division, for the purpose of co-operating for the protection and conservation of wild life in California. President Morcom selected the

following members to act upon said suggestion: Messrs. Daggett, Robertson, Law, Willett and Lelande.

After an enjoyable discussion upon various bird topics, the meeting was adjourned.—H. J. LELANDE, *Secretary, pro tem*.

NORTHERN DIVISION

JANUARY—The January meeting of the Northern Division was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, Saturday evening, the 20th, with Vice-President Carriger in the chair and the following members present: Miss Atsatt and Miss Heald, and Messrs. Boyce, Carriger, Gifford, Grinnell, and Swarth. Mr. A. C. Chandler was a visitor. The minutes of the December meeting were read and approved, followed by the Southern Division December minutes. The following were elected to membership: Sherwood Coffin, San Francisco, Calif.; Wm. A. Strong, San Jose, Calif.; G. W. Stevens, Alva, Oklahoma; L. W. Welch, Long Beach, Calif. New names were presented as follows: H. S. Hathaway, South Auburn, Rhode Island, proposed by F. E. Newbury; Chester Stock, San Francisco, proposed by W. P. Taylor; and Clarence H. Kennedy, Sunnyside, Washington, proposed by W. L. McAtee.

The following motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Grinnell, and duly carried: That five persons be appointed by the President to serve for the Northern Division as a standing Committee on the Conservation of Wild Life, and that the appointment of a similar committee be suggested to the Southern Division. The functions of such a committee to be, in general, as follows:

(1) To co-operate with the State Fish and Game Commission in its efforts to secure better legislation and better enforcement of existing statutes, with regard to the wild life of the state.

(2) To co-operate with the better element of the sportsmen's organizations in their efforts to maintain a far sighted conservation policy with regard to game animals.

(3) To co-operate with the Audubon Society or other organizations interested in the protection not only of game but also of non-game birds and animals.

(4) To co-operate, as far as the State of California is concerned, with the Federal Bureau of Biological Survey in its work along lines of wild animal conservation.

(5) To work at all times to the end that an enlightened public sentiment with regard to the subject be stimulated and brought to bear upon problems arising in connection with the conservation of wild life.

Mr. Grinnell spoke on the distribution of hummingbirds in California, illustrating his talk with specimens, and with maps showing the ranges of the breeding species.—H. S. SWARTH, *Secretary*.

FEBRUARY—The February meeting of the Northern Division was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology on Saturday evening, February 17. President Coggins was in the chair, and the following members present: Miss Atsatt and Miss Heald, and Messrs. Carriger, Gifford, Grinnell, Taylor, and Swarth. The minutes of the January meeting were read, followed by the Southern Division January minutes. The following new members were elected: H. S. Hathaway, Chester Stock, and C. H. Kennedy. New names presented for membership are: Miss Anna Head, Berkeley, presented by Mr. Grinnell; Miss Margaret W. Wythe, Oakland, presented by H. C. Bryant; and George E. Stone, South Pasadena, presented by W. P. Taylor.

Mr. Taylor, Chairman of the Committee on Conservation of Wild Life, gave a verbal report of the activities of the Committee. The election of editor and business managers of THE CONDOR for 1912, nominations having already been made by the officers of both divisions, gave the following results: Editor, J. Grinnell; Business Managers, J. Eugene Law and W. Lee Chambers. A letter was read from the secretary of the Pacific Coast Association of Scientific Societies, appointing W. P. Taylor, representing the Cooper Club, a member of a committee acting for the Association as an auxiliary in promoting conventions of scientific and learned organizations in San Francisco during the Exposition year 1915.

Mr. Grinnell gave a brief talk on present conditions in the Imperial Valley, and the birds to be seen there, as observed on a recent visit, while on the Agricultural Demonstration Train. Adjourned.—H. S. SWARTH, *Secretary*.

COMMUNICATION

APROPOS THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED PERMANENT COMMITTEES OF THE COOPER CLUB FOR THE CONSERVATION OF WILD LIFE.

Conservation has by this time come to represent in a fairly definite manner certain issues of great importance to the best good of the people, and it is coming to be realized that the principle should be extended to cover other things than forests and water power.

Not the least of these is the wild-life of the community. The presence within a state or

country of native species of birds, mammals, and fishes, while it is, on the one hand, a distinct esthetic asset, has on the other a definite money value. In a commonwealth like California the possibilities of the ideal conservation of song and game birds and of game and non-game mammals and fishes are tremendous. Our wild animals include some of the most attractive of game species, as well as scores of other forms intrinsically of the highest scientific and popular interest.

The history of California shows, as does the history of almost every other state and nation, a woeful lack of foresight with regard to the conservation of natural resources in general, and of game in particular. A short life-time (fifty-five years) ago, the flesh of the prong-horned antelope was the cheapest meat in San Francisco, sea otter skins were to be had comparatively cheaply, and elk were not uncommon throughout Northern California.

The advance of civilization tends, of course, to crowd out various wild species. This makes the problem of their perpetuation more difficult, and consequently more important to be considered.

Among the agencies which have worked for the conservation of wild life is the State Fish and Game Commission. This organization has done good work in a particularly difficult field. But no state commission can go ahead of public sentiment, which often appears not to be particularly interested in the problems which here concern us.

It would seem that the Cooper Ornithological Club has a distinct opportunity to serve the state along these lines. The committee appointed by the Northern Division should co-operate with the committee of the Southern Division, to the end that the entire Club may work efficiently for (1) a more widespread interest in the conservation of the wild life, (2) enlightened game legislation with regard thereto, and (3) better enforcement of protective laws already existing.

Furthermore, the interest of the Club in the matter should be broad enough to include not only birds, but other forms, and should be so keen as to sympathize with and actively support similar work carried on elsewhere, as by the Federal Bureau of Biological Survey.

The possibility of accomplishment of these permanent committees is large. When it is considered that the Cooper Club is one of the most promising bird organizations in North America, and that it includes men of influence in many fields of commercial and scholastic activity, it must be conceded that it may become a potent factor for progress along the lines indicated.—WALTER P. TAYLOR.