

FIFTY COMMON BIRDS OF FARM AND ORCHARD. Prepared in the Bureau of Biological Survey. U. S. Dept. Agric., Farmers Bull., 513, pp. 1-31, 50 figs. in text. (Rec'd May 23, 1913.)

The object of the recent bulletin by members of the United States Biological Survey entitled "Fifty common birds of farm and orchard" is stated in the introduction to be "to serve the very practical purpose of enabling our farmers and their boys and girls to identify the birds that frequent the farm and orchard". Certainly this bulletin comes as near fulfilling this purpose as any yet published.

The introduction is given over to a discussion of the relation of birds to insects and to methods of encouraging birds. Some additional evidence to that already published, as to the capacity of birds' stomachs, is to be noted. The record of 72,000 seeds found in the stomach of a single duck taken in Louisiana in February is particularly noteworthy. Under a discussion of bird enemies there is an arraignment of the house cat, the first conspicuous one we have noticed in any publication of the Biological Survey.

The text treatment is brief and made up of an account of the size, range, habits and economic status of the fifty common species. Constant reference to Farmers Bulletins and Biological Survey Bulletins treating more fully of the birds under discussion are given. The most conspicuous feature of the accounts, as well as the most conspicuous thing about the whole bulletin, is the small colored illustration of each species. These excellent likenesses were executed from nature by the well-known bird artist, Louis Agassiz Fuertes.

To the average citizen or person interested in birds this bulletin will appeal more than any other in the series; for in the identification of birds it is on illustrations rather than on technical descriptions that ordinary people depend. To see a bird in the field and then attempt to find its description in a book is difficult enough for the student and is seldom undertaken by the uninitiated. To see a bird in the field and find its description by comparing it with a good colored illustration is within the range of anyone's accomplishment. Hence this bulletin furnishes a useable handbook for the common run of people interested in the subject. As this type of bulletin is too expensive for individuals, and usually too expensive for state departments to attempt, the United States Department of Agriculture is to be complimented all the more on the score of having produced a work which there is little possibility of duplicating.—H. C. BRYANT.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

JULY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division was held at the Museum of History, Science and Art, Thursday evening, July 31, with President Law in the chair and the following members present: Messrs. Daggett, Fitzpatrick, Law, Layne, Rankin, Rich, Storer, Van Rossem, and Swarth. Mr. H. A. Edwards was a visitor. The minutes of the June meeting were read and approved, followed by the reading of the Northern Division minutes for May. The name of Mr. Fred H. Carruthers was proposed for membership by W. Lee Chambers. There being no further business the remainder of the evening was devoted to an inspection of the Museum, and to hearing the informal reports of such members as had been engaged in field work during the past few months. Adjourned.—H. S. SWARTH, *Secretary*.

AUGUST.—The monthly meeting of the Southern Division was held at the Museum of History, Science and Art, Thursday evening, August 28, with the following attendants: President Law in the chair, and Messrs. Cookman, Daggett, Howell, Hubbs, Kimball, Rich, Van Rossem, Zahn, and Swarth. Mr. H. A. Edwards was a visitor. The minutes of the July meeting were read and approved. One new member was elected, Mr. Fred H. Carruthers, proposed by W. Lee Chambers. Three new names were presented: Mr. Guy Love, Oberlin, Kansas, proposed by H. W. Carriger; Mr. L. Brooks, New Bedford, Mass., by W. Lee Chambers; and Mr. Paul L. Radir, Los Angeles, by H. S. Swarth.

The secretary read a paper entitled "An Account of the Mallard Duck as Occurring in California," by J. Grinnell and H. C. Bryant, this being a sample chapter of a work now in progress by the authors dealing with the game birds of the state.

Mr. Kimball exhibited some skins of hummingbirds from Colima, Mexico, together with a few other Mexican birds. Adjourned.—H. S. SWARTH, *Secretary*.

SEPTEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division was held at the residence of Dr. L. H. Miller, Sunday afternoon, September 28, with the following attendance: President Law in the chair, and Messrs. Chambers, Daggett, Esterly, Grey, Layne, Miller, Rich, Van Rossem, Welch, Wood, and Swarth, and Mrs. Harriet Williams Meyers. Those present other than members were Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Chambers, Mrs. Esterly and Miss Van Deusen, and Messrs. J. W. Eggleston and H. A. Edwards.

The minutes of the August meeting were read and approved. New members were elected

as follows: Guy Love, Oberlin, Kansas; L. Brooks, New Bedford, Massachusetts; and Paul L. Radir, Los Angeles. New names presented were: C. B. Lastreto, San Francisco, and H. A. Edwards, Los Angeles, proposed by W. Lee Chambers; Prof. J. W. Eggleston, Occidental College, Los Angeles, proposed by Dr. Esterly and Dr. Miller; Mr. W. C. Bradbury, Denver, Colorado, proposed by H. S. Swarth. The resignation of Mr. John J. Boyce was read and accepted.

The secretary read a communication from Mr. W. Leon Dawson, giving a brief report of the progress made on the "Birds of California," and suggesting definite ways in which the promised co-operation of the Club in the production of the book would be helpful at the present time. After careful consideration and discussion of the questions involved, the secretary was instructed to communicate further with Mr. Dawson and with the Northern Division, before any definite action be taken by the club.

Mr. Chambers produced a periodical containing a short article (reprinted from the *Detroit News Tribune*) entitled "Henry Ford—'Savior of Birds'", which was read by the secretary. The motion was then passed that the secretary be instructed to write to Mr. Ford expressing the appreciation and commendation of the club for his generous support of the McLean migratory bird bill.

During this meeting the members were assembled on Mr. Miller's broad, shady veranda, directly on the brink of the Arroyo Seco, with its profuse vegetation and abundant bird life. A drinking fountain beside the porch was continually visited by birds during the afternoon, small flocks of Green-backed Goldfinches and an occasional Anna Hummingbird, Brown Towhee, and San Diego Wren appearing from time to time, while from a distance could be heard the call of the Valley Quail and the song of the Pasadena Thrasher. A rather abrupt cessation of the business before the meeting was caused by the appearance of refreshments, but it was late in the afternoon before the members finally disbanded. Toward the end of the meeting Mr. Daggett got in telephonic communication with Mr. W. H. Osgood, of the Field Museum, who had but just arrived at the Hotel Alexandria, too late to make the long ride from town to where the meeting was being held, but who might to this extent be considered as in attendance.

A vote of appreciation was tendered to Mr. and Mrs. Miller for their most enjoyable hospitality. Adjourned.—H. S. SWARTH, *Secretary*.

NORTHERN DIVISION

MAY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, on May 15, 1913, at 8 p. m. with President Carriger in the chair and the following members present: Mrs. Burnham, the Misses Libby and Wythe, Dr. Burnham, and the Messrs.

Bryant, Carriger, Finley, Grinnell, Heine-mann, Hunter, Storer, W. P. Taylor, and R. Wheeler. Mesdames Allen and Finley, Miss Wythe, and the Messrs. Parker, Rankin, and Sampson were present as visitors. For the convenience of some of those present the papers of the evening were placed first on the program.

Mr. J. S. Hunter of the California Fish and Game Commission spoke on the subject of "Game Conservation in California." He first outlined the organization of the Commission and mentioned briefly the work of the fish hatcheries and then spoke in detail of the efforts of the Commission to introduce and propagate game birds. The work with the Ring-necked Pheasant has been most successful, as colonies have become established in several parts of the state. With the Silver and Golden Pheasants and the Hungarian Partridge the work to date has not been successful. The Bob-white has become established in some localities, and it is now planned to introduce the Prairie Chicken. After covering these matters Mr. Hunter went on to discuss the qualifications and work of the field deputies and gave some examples and statistics in regard to the violations of game laws.

Mr. William L. Finley, now State Game Warden of Oregon, then spoke of the work of fish and game protection and propagation in that state. He dwelt on the problems of game conservation, of the need of game refuges, and of the methods of enforcement of the game laws, pointing out that it is better, especially in the sparsely settled districts, to educate the people into obeying rather than enforcing obedience by arresting violators. Oregon has recently adopted a new game code, enacted a no-sale-of-game bill, adopted a \$25 alien's license, a trapper's license and other measures recommended by authorities in game conservation.

After the speakers had concluded, the regular business of the meeting was considered. The minutes of the April meeting were read and approved and the minutes of the Southern Division for April were read. The following were elected to membership: E. P. Rankin, El Monte, Calif.; Geo. F. Sykes, Corvallis, Oregon; F. J. Smith, J. Bagley, and B. M. Marshall, Eureka, Calif.; E. A. Dial, Santa Barbara, Calif.; and E. E. Lusher, Van Nuys, Calif. New names were proposed for membership as follows: Amelia Sanborn Allen, Berkeley, Calif., proposed by J. Grinnell; and from the Southern Division: H. C. Ohl, Los Banos, Calif., proposed by H. C. Bryant.

Mr. W. P. Taylor, Chairman of the Permanent Committee on the Conservation of Wild Life, reported the results of the efforts of the California Associated Societies for the Conservation of Wild Life at the recent session of the California Legislature, which had just adjourned, and mentioned the bills which were up before Governor Johnson for his signature. Adjourned.—TRACY I. STORER, *Secretary*.