

blemishes. But that absolute perfection is beyond human reach is occasionally demonstrated even in the present painstaking product. For example, grammatical lapses in the following quotations from page 164 are apparent: "The duties of incubation were shared by both sexes; in two instances the male was setting and in three the female."

Whatever of misgiving may be aroused in the mind of the reader of Loomis's paper in regard to some of the theoretical interpretations and to the peculiarity in handling geographic variation, the paper must be commended for the extraordinary care exercised in gathering and publishing the multitude of facts therein made available in regard to the relatively little known Tubinares.—J. GRINNELL.

THE HAWKS OF THE CANADIAN PRAIRIE PROVINCES IN THEIR RELATION TO AGRICULTURE, by P. A. TAVERNER. Canada Geological Survey, Museum Bulletin No. 28, Biological Series no. 7, August, 1918, pp. 1-14, 4 plates (8 colored illustrations), 7 figs. in text.

It is to be hoped that this bulletin will be given the widest possible circulation, especially among the farmers of the region covered, for although the treatment of the subject is necessarily of the briefest, the author has nevertheless compressed within these few pages much accurate information upon a generally misunderstood subject. The written descriptions and the illustrations should together suffice for ready identification of the species by the layman, and the nature of the food of each is concisely indicated. Emphasis is rightly placed upon the harmlessness of most hawk species, as regards human interests, and the absolute benefits accruing to the farmer through the activities of many of them.

Such educational work as this is valuable and should be pushed farther. It has been neglected in the past with results familiar to all ornithologists. The fate of the White-tailed Kite in California and of the Mississippi and Swallow-tailed kites in Illinois are fair examples of what is happening elsewhere throughout the country,—the destruction of beautiful and harmless birds through ignorance and thoughtlessness. Printed matter calculated to offset such action is of the scarcest, and seldom reaches the individual who should be convinced of the error of his ways. Of United States government publications, the one and only report adequately covering the subject, Dr. A. K. Fish-

er's *Hawks and Owls of the United States*,—it needs no eulogy here—which should have been forced upon the attention of every farmer and sportsman in the country, has lapsed into the position of a prize for the ornithological bibliophile! As such it now fails of useful service to any important degree.

On the other hand, there are popular magazines of wide circulation on whose pages may be seen advertisements of ammunition dealers, showily placed and attractively illustrated, calling upon the sportsman to go forth and shoot "hawks", propaganda that reach scores of people where there is one who ever hears a word on the other side. Audubon societies as a rule seem to have paid but scant attention to this phase of bird protection, the members thereof doubtless having for the most part but hazy notions of the true character of most predaceous birds; and Federal and state biologists have lately found all-engrossing occupation in the destruction of "noxious" animals—some of which used to be kept in bounds through the assistance of the formerly abundant Raptores. So, with most people lacking the knowledge to discriminate between harmful and beneficial species, usually in ignorance even that there are any useful kinds, and with the ever-present irresponsible gunner eager to shoot at such a mark, even should there be laws against doing so, the hawks suffer in consequence. For all of these reasons it is a pleasant privilege to call special attention to Mr. Taverner's excellent paper, and to urge the desirability of the broadcast distribution of reports such as this one is.—H. S. SWARTH.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

AUGUST.—The regular meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at 8 p. m., August 15, 1918. Dr. Evermann presided and the following members were present: Messrs. Carriger, Grinnell, Lastreto, Loomis, Noack, Swarth and Trenor; Mesdames Allen, Grinnell, Kluegel, Schlesinger; visitors, Miss Daniels, Miss Guthrie, Mr. Kelly, Mrs. Swarth, and Miss Hittell.

By special request the program preceded the business meeting. Mr. Leverett M. Loomis read an instructive paper on bird migration, in which he ascribed conflicting observations as due to reports of delayed migration rather than actual flight, and

discredited records pointing to a sixth sense as based upon such erroneous reports. General discussion was led by Dr. Grinnell.

The business of the evening was then disposed of. The minutes of the July meeting were read and approved, and the June and July minutes for the Southern Division were read. Mrs. G. E. Kelly was elected to membership, and Prof. H. E. McMinn, elected by the Southern Division, was approved for membership. The following names were presented: Miss Esther Guthrie, Woodland, California, by Mrs. J. T. Allen; Mrs. Harriette W. Bridges, Oakland, by Miss Margaret W. Wythe; Miss Isabel A. Thomson, Fallon, Nevada, by Mrs. Allen; Richard M. Hunt, Berkeley, by J. Grinnell; and J. W. Hungate, Cheney, Washington, by Barton W. Evermann and Walter P. Taylor.

A letter from Mrs. Florence Merriam Bailey to Dr. Grinnell, suggesting that the Cooper Club should have a place where note-books and photographs could be preserved, was read. Adjourned.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Secretary*.

SEPTEMBER.—The regular meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, at 8 p. m., September 19, 1918. Dr. Evermann was in the chair and the following members were present: Messrs. Bryant, Carriger, Cooper, Evermann, Hunt, Lastreto, Loomis, Mailliard, Morley, Storer, Swarth, Wetmore and Wheeler; Mesdames Allen, Grinnell, Kluegel, Knappen, Meade and Schlesinger. The visitors present were Mrs. Wheeler, Mrs. Swarth and Mr. Schlesinger.

The minutes of the August meeting were read and approved. Miss Esther Guthrie, Woodland, Calif., Mrs. Harriette W. Bridges, Oakland, Miss Isabel Thomson, Fallon, Nevada, Richard M. Hunt, Berkeley, and J. W. Hungate, Cheney, Wash., were elected to membership. Mrs. E. D. Roe, San Francisco, was proposed for membership by Carl R. Smith, and Paul J. Fair, San Francisco, by Dr. Evermann.

An interesting letter from Mr. Ridgway describing early conditions in Indiana was read by Dr. Evermann.

Following up on the suggestion made by Mrs. Florence Merriam Bailey, Mr. Swarth presented a motion that members of the Club be invited to deposit note-books or other records in the care of the Cooper Club. The motion was carried, as was also a motion offered by Mr. Mailliard that a committee of three be appointed by the Chair to arrange

with the Southern Division as to the best place for keeping such material.

Mr. Mailliard reported a nighthawk as seen in San Francisco.

Mr. Alexander Wetmore then read an account of birds found at Lake Burford, northern New Mexico. He dwelt particularly upon water birds and especially upon their habits of display during the mating season.

At the close of the paper Dr. Evermann announced the committee to recommend place of deposit for ornithological records as follows: Mr. Joseph Mailliard, Mr. Harry S. Swarth and Mr. H. W. Carriger. Adjourned.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Secretary*.

OCTOBER.—Because of quarantine regulations, the regular October meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held under the trees outside the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, the time being October 17, 1918, at eight o'clock. Dr. Evermann presided. The following members were present: Messrs. Bryant, Carriger, Hanford, Hunt, Kibbe, Loomis, Mailliard, Noack and Wheeler; Mesdames Allen, Bamford, Griffin, Kelley, Kibbe, Knappen and Meade. Visitors present were: Mrs. Morley, Mrs. Wheeler, Mr. Kelley and Mr. Meade.

The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved. Paul J. Fair, San Francisco, and Mrs. E. D. Roe, San Francisco, were elected to membership. Also S. Herbert Jones, F. B. Hart, Reginald Hopkins, John Mercer, Ernest Windle and O. H. Homme, whose names had already been passed upon by the Southern Division.

Resolutions relating to the proposed drainage of Malheur Lake for the benefit of real estate speculators, drawn up and signed by the Southern Division, copies of which were addressed to the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, the Governor of Oregon, and the Land Board of Oregon, were read to the Club. By unanimous vote of the Club the Secretary was instructed to sign the resolutions for the Northern Division and to forward them to the proper parties.

Mr. Joseph Mailliard then gave an account of his visit to the Feather River country, with many interesting observations upon the songs, habits and nests of the birds found at different elevations.

After discussion and comparison of observations, the Club adjourned.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Secretary*.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

AUGUST.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division, Cooper Ornithologi-

cal Club, was held at the Museum of History, Science and Art, August 29, 1918, at 8:00 P. M. In the absence of president and vice-president, Mr. Daggett was acclaimed chairman of the evening. Other members present were: Messrs. Barker, Brouse, Chambers, Colburn, Esterly, Hanaford, Holland, Law, Peyton, Robertson and Wyman; Mesdames Husher and Law. Mrs. Robertson was a visitor.

Minutes of the July meeting were read and approved. On proper motion the Secretary was instructed to cast an electing ballot for the parties whose names were presented at the July meeting. New names presented were: John D. Mercer, Los Angeles, by Fred Barker; Ernest Windle, Avalon, by A. B. Howell; and O. H. Homme, Pullman, Washington, by W. P. Taylor. Also, from the Northern Division, the names of Eva T. Griffin, San Francisco, and Elizabeth Ferguson, Berkeley, both presented by Mrs. J. T. Allen.

A notification, directed to one of the members personally, from the Biological Survey, to the effect that hereafter a special permit from the Department of Agriculture will be necessary for collecting migratory birds, was read to the Club. On motion by Mr. Chambers the secretary was instructed to secure a supply of blank applications for convenience of the members.

In the general discussion that followed Mr. Peyton, than whom none is more familiar with the haunts of the Condor, and who has collected extensively, oologically, among the eagles of Ventura County and the Santa Barbara Islands, told some of his experiences and observations. A tray of study-skins of Juncos and near-related sparrows received the usual attention. Adjourned.—L. E. WYMAN, *Secretary*.

NOVEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division was held at the home of Mr. W. Lee Chambers, Eagle Rock, November 29, 1918, at 8:00 P. M. Members present were Messrs. Brown, Brouse, Chambers, Colburn, Dickey, Esterly, Law, Little, Nokes, Miller, Rich and Wyman, and Mrs. Law. President Miller officiated.

Minutes of the August and September meetings were read and approved, and those of the same meeting of the Northern Division were read. On proper motion the secretary was instructed to cast an electing ballot for the following parties, whose names were presented at previous meetings: H. L. Dillaway, Everett, Washington; John J. Furber, Klamath Falls, Oregon; Dr. Geo. W. Field, Washington, D. C.; Dr. L. E. Hibbard,

Burns, Oregon; John D. Mercer, Los Angeles; Ernest Windle, Avalon; O. H. Homme, Pullman, Washington. The names of Maria V. Ballard, Eva T. Griffin, and Elizabeth Ferguson from the Northern Division, were approved.

New names presented were: A. L. Gormley, Arnprior, Ont., Canada, and Edward Gordon Alexander, Lexington, Mo., by W. Lee Chambers; Donald Still, Tucson, Ariz., by A. B. Howell; while the following were received from the Northern Division: Mrs. G. E. Kelly, Alameda; Richard M. Hunt, Berkeley; Mrs. Harriette W. Bridges, Berkeley; Miss Esther Guthrie, Woodland; and Miss Isabel A. Thomson, Fallon, Nevada.

Letters from Gov. Withycombe of Oregon, also from the Land Board of that state, and from the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., acknowledging receipt of the Cooper Club's protest against the draining of Malheur Lake, Oregon, were read. The resignation of Mrs. Robert Fargo was presented and accepted.

A communication from the Northern Division was read, calling attention to the need of a Club repository for field notes. After some discussion, on motion by Mr. Law, seconded by Dr. Rich, and unanimously carried, it was expressed as the sense of the meeting that the Club's library be formally organized by the appointment of two librarians to be named, one each, from the active staff of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, and of the Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles, and both to be members of the Cooper Ornithological Club. These librarians shall be the custodians of all publications, manuscripts, field notes, and other ornithological data given or bequeathed to the Club, and such material shall be deposited in the said two museums in such manner as to be available to scientific students, due regard being given to the expressed wishes of the respective donors. [This resolution is submitted now to the Northern Division.]

On motion of Dr. Rich, seconded by Mr. Law, a vote of thanks was extended to Mr. and Mrs. Chambers for their hospitality in entertaining the Club and affording the opportunity for what was pronounced the most enjoyable meeting of the year.

In the half-hour of general discussion Mr. Law reported a nest, with two young, of the Green-backed Goldfinch, found on November 14. A session in Mr. Chambers' library, where many rare volumes were inspected, completed the meeting. Adjourned.—L. E. WYMAN, *Secretary*.