

While the birds were shy when I moved about openly, they were quite otherwise when I stood or sat quietly beside a clump of willow or an oak-scrub that grew in the locality. From these screens I watched the birds by the hour, at all distances from thirty yards to four feet or less. Dozens of times individuals appeared from nowhere, apparently, and disappeared in like manner, their flight so bullet-like that the eye could hardly follow them. Numerous times I watched females preening on a twig less than six feet distant, but did not see a male thus engaged.

Ordinarily the Black-chins, of which a few haunted the same locality, would drive the Calliopes unmercifully. Once, however, a male Calliope shot close beside me up the hillside, just grazing the grass-tips, driving at a Black-chin that was quietly feeding. Within two feet of the latter he mounted vertically about thirty feet, then dropped like a plummet on the feeding bird, and both flashed down the hill-side with Calliope doing the chasing.

The courting antics of the species likewise received close attention. On one occasion an angry buzzing, almost terrifying in volume, resolved itself into a pair of these birds holding to each other's beaks and revolving like a horizontal pinwheel, *less than four feet from my eyes*. Around they went, a half-dozen times, then parted, the female perching and preening on a twig of the oak-scrub just beyond arm's reach, with the male two feet farther away and giving vent at three-second intervals to an explosive, metallic *zing*. This was, of course, made with the wings, but the bird was sufficiently screened so that I could not see it clearly.

On another occasion a female sat preening on a horizontal dead weed, when a male shot up the hill-side close to the ground, passed the female, mounted about twenty-five feet and darted down again in a long, narrow, vertical ellipse that flattened where it touched the hill-side. As he passed the female she fluttered and swung head downward on her perch. The male alighted above her, with vibrating wings, and coition took place in this position.

Of seven females taken, one secured on June 19 held a half-developed ovum; two others, taken on this date and two days later, showed slightly developed ova, and the others were still farther from the laying stage. Other females were observed on June 23 and 24 gathering spider-webs about the cabins.—L. E. WYMAN, *Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles, October 2, 1920.*

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

Honorary membership in the Cooper Ornithological Club has, by action of both Divisions, been conferred upon Florence Merriam Bailey (Mrs. Vernon Bailey). This recognition is based upon Mrs. Bailey's record as an accurate observer of living birds, and upon her marked literary ability in putting into permanent and pleasing form much of high value relative to the life histories of the birds of the western United States. She became an Active member of the Club in 1910 and a Life member in 1919. She has always been a loyal supporter of the purposes of the Club, for instance as evidenced by the numerous articles contributed by her to *THE CONDOR*.

The present Honorary membership roll of the Cooper Club contains seven names: Robert Ridgway, elected in 1905; Henry W. Henshaw, 1909; C. Hart Merriam, 1909; J. A. Allen, 1910; Frank Stephens, 1912; Edward W. Nelson, 1917; and Florence Merriam Bailey, 1920. Each of these ornithologists has been identified importantly with the development of the ornithology of western North America.

The W. Otto Emerson collection of bird skins, numbering about 5500, has been purchased for the California Academy of Sciences by two public-spirited members of that body, Messrs. John W. Mailliard and W. H. Crocker. This collection consists largely of birds gathered by Mr. Emerson himself during the past forty years in Alameda County, California. Its local value is therefore great, and it is gratifying that its permanent preservation is now assured in a place to which bird students in the San Francisco Bay region can have easy access. A number of rarities are included, such as "record specimens" of species which have been obtained but once or twice on the Pacific Coast or in California. There also goes into the possession of the Academy of Sciences the original manuscript of Cooper's *Ornithology of California* (1870), and that of Cooper's *Birds of Washington Territory* (1860). These had been salvaged from the effects of Dr. Cooper by Mr. Emerson many years ago, shortly after the former's death.

The large reading public reached by the "International Feature Service" through the

Sunday supplements of many newspapers is served from time to time with highly-seasoned half-portions of natural history, stimulative to the imagination perhaps, but not often over full of nutriment in the way of truth or fact. Here is a "rich" sample of ornithology which appeared recently under the authorship of "Dr. W. H. Ballou":

"All migrating water birds, so far as we know, carry safely beneath their feathers little conch shelled animals for food in flight. Without pausing, by a slight twist of the head which shall not upset the centre of gravity, the bird swipes a shell or two when hungry instead of alighting for a table d'hote dinner. Of all fliers, the upland plover loads itself with the largest number of shells, making probably the longest and most sustained migrations of all water-wading birds."

## MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

### NORTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The regular meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, September 23, at 8 P. M. President Wright presided, and the following members were present: Mesdames Allen, Ames, Baird, Bamford, Bridges, Ferguson, E. Ferguson, Griffin, Grinnell, Kibbe, Law, McLellan, Mead, Neilson, Neugass, Newhall, Randolph, Rush, and Thomson; Messrs. Bell, Cooper, Cox, Davies, Dixon, Elmore, Evermann, Gignoux, Grinnell, Hill, Kibbe, Law, McLean, Storer, Wheeler, and Wright. Among the visitors were Mr. Baird, Miss Beaman, Mrs. Etcheverry, and Mrs. Wheeler.

The minutes of the August meeting were read and approved and were followed by the reading of the minutes of the August meeting of the Southern Division. Miss Eleanor Bennet, Mrs. Edward Hohfeld, and Mr. Arthur Frank were elected to membership and elections by the Southern Division in August were approved. New names proposed were Francis G. Gilchrist, Berkeley, by Tracy I. Storer, and Mrs. Georgianna T. Roe, Berkeley, by Mrs. Eva D. Roe. A communication from the Federal Power Commission, Washington, D. C., outlined its policy "not to entertain or consider any application for use of water-power sites in any National Park."

Business completed, vacation reports were given. Mrs. Kibbe, who walked with her husband through Glacier Park, had familiar interviews with crossbills, pipits, rosy finches, and other interesting species. Mr. Law spoke of the nest of the Cassin

Vireo and the miniature thrasher-like song of the Gnatcatcher. Dr. Evermann gave an account of his trip to the Hawaiian Islands, dwelling upon his impressions on visiting Mount Kilauea. Adjourned.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Secretary*.

### SOUTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER 26, 1920.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division, Cooper Ornithological Club, was held at the home of President Miller, on the banks of the Arroyo Seco, at 3:00 P. M. An attendance of thirty members and fifteen visitors attested the popularity of the occasion.

Minutes of the August meeting were read and approved. Applicants whose names were presented at that meeting were declared elected, on motion of Dr. Esterly, seconded by Dr. Rich, that the secretary be instructed to cast a favoring ballot. New presentations were as follows: Miss Romola M. Adams, Long Beach, by Miss Drachman; Mrs. Edna R. Warmer, Los Angeles, by Dr. Charles Warmer; Miss Alice Rose Livesey, Glendale, by Dr. Miller; Miss Lorene Fritch, Glendale, also by Dr. Miller; William V. Evans, Livingston, Montana, by W. Lee Chambers; Mrs. Herbert Clayburgh, Redwood City, by Mrs. Mervyn Neugass; Miss Catherine V. Beers, University of Southern California, by L. E. Wyman. The Northern Division sent the names of Eleanor V. Bennet, Mrs. Edward Hohfeld, and Arthur Frank.

A proposal to elect Florence Merriam Bailey to honorary membership, following favorable action by the Northern Division, was presented. Mr. Chambers moved that the action of that division be ratified; seconded by Mrs. Fargo, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson was called upon to speak relative to the status of the forthcoming "Birds of California", and brought the good word that this long-delayed publication will soon go to press. Other members contributing brief accounts of recent observations or interesting experiences were Mr. Frank Stephens, Sidney Peyton, Wright Pierce, Miss Mary Mann Miller, Miss Pratt, and Dr. Miller.

Serious business completed, members and friends partook of watermelon and fruit, and congratulated one another and their genial host upon the complete success of the occasion. Adjourned.—L. E. WYMAN, *Secretary*.