

Under "Light-mantled Sooty Albatross" (*Phoebetria palpebrata*), Mathews and Iredale point out that Nichols and Murphy slipped up (as had Mathews himself) in using the name they did (*antarctica* Mathews) for one of the recognized races, since that name already existed in the synonymy of "typical" *palpebrata*. The former authors therefore here (p. 50) propose a new name, *P. p. murphyi*, for "the South Georgian form." This new name is run in in a text paragraph, and, as with six other new names in the volume under review, it is distinguished in no special way (as by bold-face type) so as to prevent its being easily overlooked. There is, to be sure, a list (p. xxiv) of new names proposed; but this does not suffice. A most reprehensible practise here, as in other works by Mathews and Iredale, is that of omitting any designation of type specimen or of exact type locality.

Under "Royal Albatross" (*Diomedea epomophora*), it is stated (p. 57) that Murphy's "new subgenus", *Rhothonia*, based on the "new species," *Diomedea sanfordi*, "is obviously a form of the present species, agreeing in all details of structure." If this be true, it is a sad case of misunderstood variation. Again, Mathews and Iredale remark "We do not understand Murphy's measurements. . .".

We note (with alarm!) that the Knot of America becomes (p. 125) "*Calidris canutus rufus* (Wilson)." It seems that the authority for the genus name *Calidris* is "Anonymous"! Its type (by tautonymy) is (p. 123) *Tringa calidris*=*Tringa canutus* Linnaeus. It takes space precedence over *Canutus*. Hence our A. O. U. Committee, who we had hoped settled the case in the Seventeenth Supplement, will have to reconsider it. However, it must be said of Mathews and Iredale, in all fairness, that they have pursued nomenclatural questions with remarkable industry and, seemingly, great care, so as to bring their terminology into exact accord with the rules of the International Code.

As the above paragraphs intimate, Mathews and Iredale are free with criticisms of authors generally. They appear even hypercritical in places, though this impression may be due to the decided lack of criticism which obtains in most other current ornithological literature. When not overdone, the critical attitude is stimulative, and will make for more careful scrutiny of their materials and inferences on the part of future workers.—J. GRINNELL, *California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, June 19, 1921.*

#### MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS NORTHERN DIVISION

JUNE.—The June meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology on the 23rd at 8 P. M. In the absence of the President and the Vice-President, Mr. Joseph Mailliard presided. The following were in attendance: Mesdames Allen, Bamford, Bridges, Burk, Flinn, Griffin, Mead, G. T. Roe, Schlesinger, Thomson, Van Gassbeek; Messrs. Baker, Farber, Grinnell, Hungate, Loomis, Mailliard, Miller, and Wheeler; visitors: Mesdames Howard, Hungate, Mellon, Thomson, and Wheeler, Mr. Martens and Miss Everson.

The minutes of the May meeting were read and approved and May minutes of the Southern Division were read. Mr. Robert Cunningham Miller, 2406 Fulton St., Berkeley, was proposed for membership by J. Grinnell. Mr. Grinnell reported on the steps necessary to the establishment of a University prize for an essay in Ornithology. Further action in the matter was postponed until the next meeting.

Mr. Grinnell then gave a resume of his eastern trip, touching upon his train censuses, his problems for investigation in different museums, his conferences with bird students, and the newest methods of investigation of bird life.

Adjourned.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Secretary.*

AUGUST.—The regular meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club for July was postponed until August 3, in order that it might be held in connection with the meetings of the Pacific Division, A. A. A. S. The Club convened at 7:30 P. M. for the transaction of business with President Wright in the chair. About 50 members and visitors were present.

The minutes of the June meeting were read and approved. Dr. Grinnell reported on the acceptance of the Cooper Prize in Ornithology by the University of California. Dr. Evermann made an announcement concerning all meetings of the Pacific Division. The following papers were presented as special program for the evening:

Joseph Grinnell, The Principle of Rapid Peering, in Birds.

Ralph Hoffmann, First Impressions of California Bird Life.

Barton Warren Evermann, The White Pelican Colonies of Anaho Island, Pyramid Lake, Nevada; Illustrated with lantern slides.

Adjourned.—TRACY I. STORER, *Secretary pro tem.*