

modic pastime, but a business, with well defined duties and responsibilities. A bird trap must not be used like a mouse trap, to be baited and set and left to itself until one happens to think of it again. Bird traps should be open to constant observation and must be visited regularly and frequently, because: (1) birds of certain species will not submit to the trap but will kill themselves in efforts to escape; (2) birds that do not object to the confinement may nevertheless quarrel and injure or kill each other; (3) birds that you wish to protect and save may be killed by the other birds or by rats trapped with them; (4) birds are liable to be killed by exposure in traps overnight. . . . Trap and band, if you are competent and willing and able to do it properly; . . . but do not, yourself, nor permit anyone else to, bring terror or destruction to those birds that our Association is pledged to protect."

### COMMUNICATION

#### THE BIOLOGICAL SURVEY BIRD COUNTS

To the Editor of THE CONDOR:

The Biological Survey began in 1914 to collect data on the numerical distribution of bird life in the United States. By such information, which is gained through counts made by volunteer collaborators, of the birds breeding on selected areas, it is possible to gain some knowledge of the yearly fluctuations in bird life and of the effect the present State and Federal laws may have on the increase of game and insectivorous birds. During the earlier years we received a very gratifying response to our request for assistance, but during the war many persons were unable to continue the work and interest in it has seemed to wane. It is desirable that these counts should be repeated on a large scale through a period of years in order that adequate data may be accumulated to make possible definite conclusions. Any one thoroughly familiar with the breeding birds of his vicinity can do this work, and will find it growing in interest from year to year. We are therefore again appealing to the readers of THE CONDOR in the hope that all who are able to do so will make one or more bird counts this summer.

The general plan of this work is to select a tract of land containing from 40 to 80 acres and representing as nearly as possible the average conditions for the vicinity. Some day, during the height of the breeding season, this land should be carefully gone over in the early morning and the male birds counted, which at that season are usu-

ally in full song and may be considered each to represent a breeding pair. The result of this count should be checked subsequently to be sure that all birds counted nest within the selected area, and that none have been missed. The count should not be made until the spring migration is over and the birds are settled on their nesting grounds. In the latitude of Washington, D. C., the best time for the first count is about the first of June; in New England and the northern states probably about June 10; and south of Washington, during the latter part of May.

Anyone who is willing to do this work is requested to send his name and address to the Biological Survey, Washington, D. C. Full directions for making a count and report blanks will be sent in time for plans to be made before the actual time for the field work. Since the Bureau has no funds with which to pay for this work, it must depend on the services of voluntary observers.

An added impetus should be given to this work at the present time by the report that the British ornithologists are contemplating a census of the birds of the British Isles, planned along the same lines as our own.

Very truly yours,

E. W. NELSON,  
CHIEF, BIOLOGICAL SURVEY, Washington,  
D. C., February 1, 1922.

### MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION

OCTOBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division, Cooper Ornithological Club, was held at the Los Angeles Museum at 8 P. M., October 27, 1921. President Dickey was in the chair, with others present as follows: Messrs. Appleton, Barnes, Brown, Chambers, Hanaford, Howell, Lamb, Little, Miller, Pierce, Rich, van Rossem, Taylor, Warmer, Wyman; Mesdames Hall, Schneider and Warmer, and Misses Beers, Burnell, Germain and Kennedy. Mrs. Beers, Mrs. van Rossem and Miss Martin were visitors.

Minutes of September meeting were read and approved. The following new names were presented: Benjamin W. King, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, by H. J. Rust; Mabel M. Lawrence, Los Angeles, by Wright M. Pierce; Harry Rae Van Cleve, Los Angeles, by Dr. Warmer; James Norris Proctor, Santa Paula, by J. O. Snyder; Mrs. Aurelia B. Ferguson, Los Angeles, by Mrs. Bicknell. The Northern Division sent the name of Mrs. Sara S. Boyle, Berkeley.

Business Manager Chambers announced

the appointment of the secretary as deputy-custodian of the Chambliss Library, property of the Southern Division, and located in the Los Angeles Museum.

The occurrence of the red phalarope, in remarkable numbers, even in our city parks, was commented upon at length. Attention was then centered upon a tray of woodpecker skins, following a brief introductory talk by the secretary. Adjourned.—L. E. WYMAN, *Secretary*.

NOVEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Southern Division, was held at the Los Angeles Museum at 8 P. M., November 22, 1921. President Dickey held the chair, with twenty-five members present, as follows: Messrs. Appleton, Chambers, Hanaford, Howard, Howell, Lamb, Low, Miller, Morcom, Pierce, Reis, Rich, Robertson, Ross, van Rossem, Warmer and Wyman; Mesdames Brown, Law and Warmer, and Misses Burnell, Kennedy, Potter and Pratt. Among the visitors were Mrs. Howell, Mrs. van Rossem and Miss Wetherell.

Reading and approval of minutes of the October meeting preceded presentation of the following new names: Miss Mabel A. Stanford, Claremont, by Wright M. Pierce; Willard Fordyce Grinnell, Berkeley, by J. E. Law; Alice M. Huddleston, Berkeley, by Mr. W. L. Chambers; Howard H. Cleaves, by Carroll DeW. Scott; Clinton G. Abbott, and A. W. Anthony, by Mr. Chambers, the three last mentioned of the Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego. Names from the Northern Division were: Harry P. Stow, Alameda; Frederick C. Torrey, Berkeley; Zola Zinn, Seattle, Wash., and Dr. Robert Dill, Reno, Nevada.

A letter from the secretary of the Pacific Division, American Association for the Advancement of Science, suggesting Salt Lake City as the place for the next annual meeting, was read by the Secretary. On motion of Mr. Robertson the suggestion was approved. Mr. Law presented a resumé of the business managers' report for 1920 and first half of 1921. This showed a very satisfactory state of finances.

Announcement was made by the secretary that Mr. Howell had been appointed assistant business manager, with the title "Endowment Secretary", his special duties being to solicit contributions to the endowment fund and to otherwise promote that branch of the Club's activities.

An interesting paper on the Thick-billed Parrot in Arizona was then presented by

Mr. Law, followed by informal discussion and inspection of a tray of orioles and grackles. Adjourned.—L. E. WYMAN, *Secretary*.

DECEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division, Cooper Ornithological Club, was held at 8 P. M., December 22, 1921, at the Los Angeles Museum, with President Dickey in the chair and other members present as follows: Messrs. Bishop, Howell, Huey, Law, Little, Nokes, Pierce, van Rossem, Wyman; and Mrs. Law. Minutes of the November meeting were read and approved followed by reading of November minutes of the Northern Division.

New names presented were: Dorothy Sanderson, Los Angeles, and Mrs. A. H. Haynes, St. Paul, Minn., by Mr. Dickey; and Mrs. Arthur J. Mix, Los Angeles, by Mrs. Schneider.

Nomination of officers for 1922 was then taken up. For president, Mr. Howell named Dr. G. C. Rich, seconded by Mr. van Rossem, with nominations closed on the motion of Mr. Little, seconded by Mr. Pierce. The nomination of Mr. Pierce for vice-president by Mr. Law was seconded by Mr. Howell, and nominations closed on motion of Dr. Nokes, seconded by Mr. Little. The incumbent secretary was nominated by Mr. Pierce to succeed himself; seconded by Mr. Law; nominations closed on motion of Dr. Nokes, seconded by Mr. Huey.

A well-prepared paper on certain aspects of evolution was then presented by Mr. Howell, followed by general discussion of the subject. The meeting closed with inspection of a series of loons and grèbes. Adjourned.—L. E. WYMAN, *Secretary*.

JANUARY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division, Cooper Ornithological Club, was held at the Los Angeles Museum at 8 P. M., January 26, 1922, with Vice-President Pierce in the chair and others present as follows: Messrs. Appleton, Barnes, Bishop, Bramkamp, Brown, Chambers, Huey, King, Law, Lamb, Little, Miller, Morcom, Nokes, Dr. Rich, Selwyn Rich, Warmer and Wyman; Mesdames Anthony, Hall, Law and Schneider; Miss Burnell and Miss Terry. Among visitors were Mrs. Bishop, Mrs. Raymond, Prof. Monroe, Dr. Hall and Dr. Bramkamp.

Minutes of December meeting were read and approved. New names were presented as follows: Elmer Wachtel, Pasadena, by H. Arden Edwards; Ross McKinnon, Blue Rapids, Kansas, by P. B. Peabody; Ralph B. Williams, San Ysidro Ranch, Santa Barbara,

by W. Lee Chambers; Mrs. May Canfield, San Diego, by Laurence M. Huey; Miss Elizabeth Dewees, Norristown, Pa., by R. J. Middleton; Alex Strauss, Banning, by Dick Bramkamp; Rev. Francis M. Wilson, Beaumont, by Walter B. Barrows; Thos. L. Green, Hollywood, by J. E. Law; Mrs. E. M. B. Reichberger, American Museum of Natural History, New York, by W. DeW. Miller; F. C. Millard, Alhambra, by F. H. Hands; Clarence L. Whittle, Boston, Mass., by J. Grinnell; James Olin Wanzer, Sacramento, by W. Lee Chambers. Also from the Northern Division: Miss Matilda V. Nienburg, Alameda; Paul Fredericks Bunker, Berkeley; Emily D. Laloge, Alameda; Dr. G. Dallas Hanna, San Francisco; Leonarde Keeler, Berkeley; Miss W. C. Lindemann, Alameda.

In the matter of election of officers, Dr. Warmer moved that the secretary be instructed to cast an electing ballot for all nominees; seconded by Mr. Huey, and unanimously carried, whereupon the secretary announced Dr. Rich elected president, W. M. Pierce, vice president, and L. E. Wyman, secretary. President Rich took the chair.

Dr. Bishop then spoke on birds of the Great Salt Lake region, illustrating his talk by specimens taken by him in that locality. Followed the usual round of informal discussion of bird matters, with inspection of Dr. Bishop's specimens. Adjourned.—L. E. WYMAN, *Secretary*.

#### NORTHERN DIVISION

DECEMBER.—The December meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the usual place on December 22, at 8 P. M. President Wright presided, and those in attendance were: Mesdames Allen, Kelly, Reygadas and Thomson; Messrs. Bassett, Bryant, Bunker, Dixon, Evermann, Gignoux, Labarthe, Miller, Storer, Stow, Swarth, Torrey and Wadsworth. Visitors: Mrs. Bunker, Mrs. Evermann, Mrs. Thomson, Mrs. Wadsworth, Mr. Keeler, Mr. Kessel and Professor Kingsley.

The November minutes of the Northern Division were read and approved, and the October and November minutes of the Southern Division were read. The following names were proposed: Leonarde Keeler, Berkeley, by Mr. Curtis Wright; Miss W. C. Lindemann, Alameda, and Miss Matilda V. Nienburg, Alameda, by Mrs. G. E. Kelly. Announcement was made of the appointment of Mr. A. B. Howell as a third business manager, to have charge of the endowment fund. Mr. Swarth gave a resumé of the business

managers' reports for January and July, 1921.

Nominations for officers for the coming year resulted in the presentation of the following names to be voted on at the January meeting: For president, H. S. Swarth; for vice-president, J. S. Cooper; for secretary, Mrs. J. T. Allen. Further nominations were closed by unanimous vote.

Business completed, Dr. H. C. Bryant presented a "Field Key for California Hawks". After discussion the meeting adjourned.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Secretary*.

JANUARY.—The regular meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology on January 26, 1922, at 8 P. M. President Wright was in the chair, and about sixty members and friends were present.

After the minutes of the preceding meeting had been read and approved, officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, H. S. Swarth; Vice-President, J. S. Cooper; Secretary, Mrs. J. T. Allen. Mr. Swarth then took the chair and called on Mr. Charles Keeler for the program of the evening—a talk on "The Evolution of the Colors of Birds".

Two new names were proposed for membership by Mr. H. W. Carriger: Mr. John L. Cole, and Mr. Martin C. Paulson, Nevada, Iowa. The following resolution was submitted by Dr. Joseph Grinnell, who moved its adoption. Upon second by Mr. Lastreto it was unanimously adopted by the Club.

Whereas, it is rumored that the Regents of the University of California are seriously considering the use of Strawberry Canyon as a site for the proposed stadium, and

Whereas, Strawberry Canyon comprises a part of the Campus in which animal life native to the region is continuing under as nearly natural conditions as seem possible anywhere in the east-bay region, and

Whereas, Strawberry Canyon is a valuable asset for field instruction in general biology in certain authorized courses of the University of California and also serves in similar manner all local students of birds and of general natural history,

Be it resolved that the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club protest emphatically against any move contemplated by the Regents of the University of California which would mean the destruction of Strawberry Canyon as regards the values here emphasized.

On motion of Mr. Lastreto, duly seconded, a committee of two was appointed to investigate legislation pending with regard to the sale of foreign bird-feathers. Adjourned.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Secretary*.