

THE FIRST BULLETIN OF THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

By JOSEPH GRINNELL

IT IS PROBABLY not known to many present-day members of the Cooper Ornithological Club that a "Bulletin" of the Club was issued several years before the printed volume I, number 1, of the "Bulletin of the Cooper Ornithological Club" appeared, in 1899. But there *was* such a bulletin, sent out in multigraphed, type-written form, the first year of the Club's existence. In fact, it was sent out within two months after the organization meeting of June 22, 1893; for I have recently found an original copy of it in some early correspondence of mine, sent to me at Pasadena under postmark August 12, 1893. It was mailed me by Chester Barlow, the energetic Secretary of the Club not only at its inception but until the time of his untimely death in 1902.

This first, originally typewritten "Bulletin No. 1" is printed below, with exact wording, spelling and punctuation preserved. It shows a marvelously clear perception of the values in scientific organization, especially noteworthy when one considers that the coterie of four organizers varied in age from 16 to 18, certainly not more than 19. It will be observed that several of the expressed aspirations have proven prophetic. That "No. 1" was probably the only issue of the Bulletin in this form. For shortly afterward the Club's "proceedings" began to appear in print in H. R. Taylor's *Nidologist* (see Condor, v, January, 1903, p. 6).

I deem it appropriate to publish in this connection a portrait of the Cooper Club's first president, Wilfred H. Osgood (see p. 180). This is, of course, as Doctor Osgood appears today, not as he presided over the Club's first meeting 32 years ago this June! Osgood and Barlow, in collaboration, are doubtless chiefly to be credited with the compilation of this document, now of so great historical interest.

THE COOPER
ORNITHOLOGICAL
CLUB

Bulletin No. I.

San Jose, Calif.

August, 1893

The sole object of this Bulletin is to state briefly and concisely the object of the organization of the Cooper Ornithological Club, which was organized June 22nd. We have felt for a long time that while individual research benefitted each particular member, there should be some means of meeting together at appointed times and studying some family or species of birds by each person giving his observations. This led to the organization of the Club. We have organized to do *active* work and realize the importance of having the assistance and cooperation of ornithologists in all parts of the state.

We have chosen the name of the Cooper Ornithological Club for the reason which all California collectors will gladly accept. No one has done more to further the interests of Ornithology in this State than Dr. J. G. Cooper, and this small token of our appreciation is merited. It is the intention of the Club to hold meetings every two weeks and the interest manifested in those already held assures us of prosperity in the future.

Thus far we have had no particular family of birds under observation, but general articles and lectures on interesting topics have made up the programme. While it may seem that this would make a meeting more interesting, we have decided that we must have a system of study. First of all, we intend to give our attention to the common birds of this state where there is the least doubt as to identity, and to this end the notes from various sections are invaluable. At our next regular meeting August 15th, we shall discuss the Shrikes and Song Sparrows of California which constitute a broad field of study. Comparing the California and White-rumped Shrikes and Samuel's and

Heermanns Song Sparrows cannot fail to prove interesting and we hope to so clearly point out the difference in plumage that anyone who is present cannot fail hereafter to correctly identify any of the birds he may meet.

Now as to corresponding members. While we have a sufficient number of members in this locality to make our meetings lively and interesting, we wish to have the assistance of any and all energetic ornithologists in the state, and in return feel we can benefit them. Though a cordial invitation will be always extended to them to be present whenever an opportunity presents, we know it will be largely through correspondence that they will give the Club the results of their study and in return receive reports from other members. To this end we will issue a monthly bulletin, which will be edited by several active members residing in San Jose or vicinity. It will contain accounts of the two preceding meetings, and the outline of study for the one following. Each corresponding member will be expected to do his share of the work and make reports of his observations on any species or family of birds the club may have under consideration. These reports, coming from members in various sections of the state, will serve to show the distribution of the bird we are studying. The reports from our corresponding members will be read before the Club and comparisons made, and a full report of the meeting will appear in the Bulletin.

It will be plainly seen that the editing of the Bulletin will incur considerable expense and to cover this an entrance fee will be charged corresponding members of 50 cents, which when remitted to the Treasurer at College Park will entitle you to membership in the Club. Please give the matter careful consideration.

In addition to having a course of study to be pursued, recreative articles will be prepared and read before the Club. The officers for the quarter beginning June 22nd are as follows: President, Wilfred H. Osgood; Vice-President, Harry R. Painton; Treasurer, Fred A. Schneider and Secretary, C. Barlow.

All who receive this Bulletin and wish to join us will oblige by notifying us promptly, and should you join, we shall be pleased to have your observations on the Song Sparrows and Shrikes accompany your letter. Give your experience whether it is extensive or not, together with nesting habits curious traits etc. and do not be afraid of making it lengthy. All observations should be in the Secretary's hands by the 15th and as much earlier as possible. The Bulletins hereafter will contain four or more pages of interesting material.

In view of the fact that a number of ornithological societies have been organized in the East and are now being very successfully conducted, we hope the collectors of California will lend their assistance to something which must prove successful if properly supported.

Finally, we invite anyone who can to be present at our meeting on the evening of August 15th, which will be held at the residence of the Secretary, 228 East San Carlos Street San Jose Cal.

Berkeley, California, May 20, 1925.

A REVISIONARY STUDY OF THE WESTERN GULL

By DONALD R. DICKEY and A. J. VAN ROSSEM

THE MANTLE tone and, more particularly, the color of the feet and legs of the Western Gull have long been subjects of interest to western bird students, but the published results of such studies have lacked that certain agreement which ordinarily follows independent and intensive field observation. Authorities have differed; some have stated that the feet of these birds were yellow; others have insisted that they were flesh colored. Curiously enough, these seemingly irreconcilable statements were both correct.

It has been sufficiently established that the feet and legs of the birds of this species which breed on the islands lying off the west coast of the United States are flesh colored. This statement is based not alone on the field experience of the writers, who