

of nomenclature; quite the contrary, for in such a publication as this subspecies should unquestionably be accorded a very subordinate position. Mr. Taverner may, in fact, in this instance, ride his own particular hobby with little danger of colliding with any one. If he is in fault at all in the details mentioned—a debatable question—it lies in his attempt to follow consistently the rulings of some one accepted authority.

In any event, the user of the book will probably find it remarkably satisfactory in giving him the name and other information about the birds he sees. Too much can not be said in praise of a governmental policy that places a volume like this within reach of every one interested in the subject. It is a book for practical use, and it is also a beautiful volume, to be cherished in any library.—H. S. SWARTH, *Berkeley, California, November 27, 1926.*

BOOK NEWS.—A. L. Thomson's "Problems of Bird-migration", of which we spoke enthusiastically last year (*Condor*, xxviii, pp. 186-187), has now been issued by an American publisher (Houghton Mifflin Company of Boston, 1926, price \$5.00). In our estimation this book supplants everything else to date as an authoritative digest of the facts and theories of bird migration.

H. E. and A. H. Walters' "Wild Birds in City Parks" has just appeared in its "Twelfth Edition, Revised" (The MacMillan Company of New York, 1926, price \$1.50). Evidently this book meets a popular demand, and scrutiny of it shows it to possess an exceptional degree of excellence, in its class, on both instructional and factual scores.

A book of obvious value to the aviculturist is Emilius Hopkinson's "Records of Birds Bred in Captivity" (H. F. & G. Witherby of London, 1926, price 15 s.). Also from the geneticist's point of view is this book of interest, in recording a great number of hybrids, some of astonishingly diverse parentage, such as the two *families*, the Weavers and Finches (though perhaps not on the best of evidence—see page 192).—J. G.

#### MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

##### NORTHERN DIVISION

AUGUST.—The August meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Northern Division, was held at the Museum of Verte-

brate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, on August 26, 1926, at 8:00 P. M. President Allen was in the chair and about seventy-five members and guests were present. Minutes of the Northern Division for July were read and approved. Reading of the minutes of the Southern Division for July was omitted.

As chairman of the committee appointed by the President, Mr. Swarth read the following resolutions and moved that they be adopted:

INASMUCH as in the death of Augustus Sayre Kibbe on August 21, 1926, the Cooper Ornithological Club has suffered the loss of a member who, in an unobtrusive way, had proved himself an important factor in the well-being and progress of the Club; upon whom we had learned especially to depend for sane and practical guidance in all matters concerned with wild life conservation; and who stood deservedly high in the esteem and affection of all of us; be it

RESOLVED, that the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club hereby place on record this statement of our feeling of grief at the loss we have sustained, and of sympathy with Mrs. Kibbe in the sorrow that has come to her; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Secretary convey to Mrs. Kibbe a copy of these resolutions.

(Signed) Harry S. Swarth, Harold C. Bryant, Barton Warren Evermann, Committee.

Dr. Bade seconded the motion which was unanimously carried.

Mr. E. Raymond Hall reported seeing a Poor-will in Strawberry Canyon. Mr. R. H. Palmer reported having been told, when in the state of Washington last summer, of a sea bird which divides its time daily between the ocean and the mountain glaciers forty miles inland and asked if anyone could give him a clue as to the identity of the bird. Mr. George Haley advanced the theory that the birds may seek the glaciers in order to feed upon "glacier worms", annelids once believed to be mythical but now, according to Mr. Haley, given their rightful place by zoologists. Beyond this hint, Mr. Palmer's problem remained without elucidation.

Mr. Joseph Dixon presented the evening's program, telling "The Surf-bird's Secret". A splendid series of lantern slides illustrated the speaker's description of the mist-drenched mountain ridges of the McKinley National Park, where the father Surf-bird rears his young close by the trails of mountain sheep. At the close of the meeting all the oologists present were afforded an opportunity to see the first set of Surf-bird's eggs to be recorded, eggs now the property of Mr. John E. Thayer of Lancaster, Massachusetts, whose enthusiasm and financial aid helped make possible the expedition which resulted in their discovery.

Adjourned.—HILDA W. GRINNELL, *Secretary.*

**SEPTEMBER.**—The September meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Northern Division, was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, on Thursday evening, September 23, 1926, at 8:00 P. M., with President Allen in the chair and about fifty members present. Minutes of the Northern Division for August were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for August were read.

The name of Mr. Carl L. Carson, 6308 Broadway Terrace, Oakland, was proposed for membership by Mrs. Edwin T. Blake. A letter was read from Mrs. A. S. Kibbe expressing her appreciation of the resolutions adopted by the Northern Division in recognition of Mr. Kibbe's valuable services to the Club and to the conservation of wild life. Mr. H. S. Swarth called the attention of members to the "Official Check-list of the Birds of Australia", compiled by a committee of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union, and commended the excellency of the work.

The evening's talk was by Mr. James Moffitt upon "Summer Birds of the Tahoe Region". Mr. Moffitt described the life zones and most prominent associations of the area under consideration and defined the summer ranges of many of the birds, digressing to urge Cooper Club members to devote a larger proportion of their time to the study of our game species which are rapidly lessening in numbers, whereas future bird students will probably find warblers and sparrows as plentiful as they are today. As an illustration of the fact that game and shore birds receive too little of the bird student's attention, Mr. Moffitt ventured to doubt whether half the members present realized that the opening of the duck season has been postponed for two weeks, a measure of real importance. Mr. Moffitt's talk reflected his keen interest in the region which he has chosen for intensive study. In closing he mentioned some records of out-of-range occurrence of certain high mountain birds, such as the *Leucosticte* which he had found this summer at so low as 8700 feet altitude.

President Allen called upon Mr. Harwell for his summer experience with the Rosy Finches in the Yosemite region, and Mr. Harwell told of finding a nest of young on the Mt. Lyell trail. At the close of the program Mr. Harwell whistled his interpretation of the Western Meadowlark's song and asked for critical comment, opening up so broad a field that discussion was postponed until a future meeting. Adjourned.—HILDA W. GRINNELL, *Secretary*.

**OCTOBER.**—The October meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, on October 28, 1926, at 8:00 P. M., with President Allen in the chair and about sixty-five members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for September were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for September were read. Names proposed for membership were as follows: Miss Margaret Bevis, 2713 Haste Street, Berkeley, by Edna M. Fisher; Mrs. R. B. Carr, 2701 Claremont Blvd., Berkeley, by Joseph Dixon; Miss Kathleen Feugarde, 2713 Haste Street, Berkeley, by A. E. Borell; Miss Frances Payne, Biology Department, Alameda High School, Alameda, by Edna M. Fisher; Donald R. Skillen, Route 4, Box 90, Pasadena, by H. S. Swarth; George M. Wright, 1936 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Berkeley, by Joseph Dixon.

Mr. C. B. Lastreto announced that the Audubon Association of the Pacific now meets in comfortable quarters on the second floor of the San Francisco Ferry Building on the second Thursday of each month at 8:00 P. M. He invited Cooper Club members to attend Audubon meetings whenever possible.

Mrs. Fredericks reported having watched Pine Siskins eating eucalyptus seeds from pods on felled trees. Mrs. Allen told of noting Golden-crowned Kinglets this fall in advance of the Ruby-crowned Kinglets and asked whether others had shared this experience. Mr. Brighton C. Cain reported seeing a true Yellow-shafted Flicker.

President Allen welcomed Dr. Charles W. Townsend as a guest of the evening and reminded members of the pleasure given by his talk before the Northern Division in February, 1925. Dr. Townsend declined a request that he report upon the recent A. O. U. meeting, and instead spoke of some of the thrills of his winter in Florida, the rarest of his experiences having been the sight of the exquisite Roseate Spoonbill upon its nesting grounds.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. Charles A. Harwell, who for years has made an intensive study of the interpretation of bird music. Mr. Harwell exhibited a series of charts showing his graphic interpretations of the songs of many of our birds, and he whistled the notes of these and of many other species. Among the twenty-five kinds of birds discussed were those with such varying songs and call notes as the Meadowlark, Great Horned Owl, Canyon Wren, and Mourning Dove.

Mr. Harwell's rare ability as a whistler combined with the fidelity of his interpretations gave his hearers an evening of unusual pleasure and profit.

Adjourned.—HILDA W. GRINNELL, *Secretary*.

NOVEMBER.—The November meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, on November 18, 1926, at 8:00 P. M. In the absence of both President and Vice-president Mr. Joseph Grinnell was elected chairman of the evening. About forty members and guests were present. Minutes of the Northern Division for October were read. Names proposed for membership were as follows: Miss Susan E. Chattin, 2626 Benvenue Avenue, Berkeley, California, by Mrs. J. Grinnell; Miss Beatrice Fay Howitt, 1390 Seventh Avenue, San Francisco, California, by Miss C. C. Pringle.

The chairman's call for recent observations by members introduced a veritable symposium upon the autumnal distribution of the Mockingbird in west-central California. Mr. H. C. Bryant reported mockingbirds as common just now in Concord, and a single individual was seen regularly the preceding week within two blocks of Euclid Avenue and Eunice Street, Berkeley. Mrs. Schlesinger reported a bird of this species for three successive days about her garden in Piedmont. Mrs. Calvert Meade reported several seen on the road up from Carmel. Mr. Clark P. Streator stated that during thirty years residence in Santa Cruz he had not seen Mockingbirds until six or seven years ago, since which time they have been present each fall about a fig tree full of ripening fruit near his home. Mr. Storer contributed the statement that for the last three years there have been at least three Mockingbirds about the University campus at Davis in the fall, a location where they had not previously been observed. Mr. Grinnell closed the discussion with a reminder that the northwesternmost record for the state is by Mrs. H. E. Wilder, who reported a bird from Ferndale, Humboldt County, and that the race *leucopterus* was first described, in 1839, from a specimen probably taken in the vicinity of Monterey, California, by the Beechey expedition.

Mrs. Edwin Mead told of the visit of a Red-breasted Sapsucker, seen boring into an apricot tree in her Etna Street garden, Berkeley. Mr. Cain reported having been told that the snowberry is poisonous to

birds, but was informed by members that this is a regular, though not favorite, food of some of our native birds.

Perhaps the most interesting contribution was Mr. Wanzer's experience with a Road-runner in Redwood Canyon. Trapped in the road ahead of his automobile by the dense brush on either hand, the bird ran easily ahead of the machine when the speedometer registered ten miles; at twelve miles the bird still ran; but at fourteen the wings were brought into use and the bird soared eight feet between footsteps.

Mr. Grinnell placed before the Club for inspection the newly-issued "Birds of Western Canada", written by Mr. P. A. Taverner and illustrated largely by Major Allan Brooks. Attention was called not only to the excellence of the writing and the superior quality of the illustrations, but also to the generosity of the Canadian Government in placing the book before the public at a price far below the actual cost of publication.

"Experiences of a Federal Inspector of Foreign Birds" was the title of the paper of the evening, presented by Mr. H. S. Swarth. Members were interested to learn of the large number and wide variety of foreign birds received at the port of San Francisco. During the years he has served as inspector Mr. Swarth reported having listed ninety species of gallinaceous birds alone, fifty-four of pigeons, seventy-eight of parrots, and fifty-four of Old World finches. It was a pleasure to learn that the fifty cents duty per bird now charged has resulted in better care of travelling aves. Close attention was given Mr. Swarth's carefully prepared talk, showing the wide variety of interests maintained by our membership.

Because of the approaching holidays it was voted to hold the December meeting of the Northern Division at an earlier date than usual, upon the sixteenth. Before adjourning the meeting the chairman called attention to the fact that five drinking and bathing basins for birds have been placed upon the lower campus, and he asked that members observe and report upon the extent of their use by the birds. Adjourned.—HILDA W. GRINNELL, *Secretary*.

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION

AUGUST.—The Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday evening, August 31, 1926, at the Los Angeles Mu-

seum, Exposition Park. Eleven members and friends were present. In the absence of the president and vice-president, Mr. Wyman was called on to act as chairman. The minutes of the July meeting were read and approved. The minutes of the July meeting of the Northern Division were read.

The following names were proposed for membership: Dr. H. W. Mills, P. O. Box 275, San Bernardino, Calif., by W. Lee Chambers; George Benson, Voltage, Harney County, Oregon, by Stanley G. Jewett; Charles R. Frazier, 281 E. 15th St. North, Portland, Oregon, by Stanley G. Jewett; Ed. S. Steele, Reserve, New Mexico, by W. Lee Chambers; John Basye Price, Box 733, Stanford University, Calif., by Harold Michener.

A communication from the secretary of the Northern Division was read, in which the death of Mr. A. S. Kibbe was reported. Mr. Kibbe has been one of the most faithful members of the Cooper Club for many years.

The meeting was then turned into a round-table talk in which nearly everyone present took part, telling of the birds that had been seen. Mr. Hubricht told of seeing a Cooper Tanager at Sierra Madre on August 29, 1926. There was no doubt in his mind of the correct identification of the bird. Mr. Michener told of his son Charles having carefully observed two red birds at the Michener home in Pasadena. The description of the birds and reference to colored pictures led to the conclusion that they probably were Cooper Tanagers. This was on July 5, 1926. It was pointed out that these birds might have escaped from some aviary. Mr. Wyman told of having seen a large flock, perhaps 175 in number, of Elegant Terns at Playa del Rey early in August. They had been seen by others for some time before he saw them. He explained that such large numbers of them had never before been reported along our coast; in fact, they were so rare here that very few people had seen them at all before. Mr. van Rossem told some interesting things about the birds of Salvador. Many other items of interest were presented and discussed. Adjourned.—HAROLD MICHENER, *Secretary, pro tem.*

SEPTEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held September 28, 1926, at the Southwest Museum, Marmion Way, Los Angeles, at 8:00 P. M. The meeting was called to order by President

Bishop with forty-five members present. Minutes of the Southern Division for August were read and approved. Minutes of the August meeting of the Northern Division were read.

The following names were proposed for membership: Dr. Wm. C. McKechnie, Vancouver, B. C., Canada, by J. W. Wursion; E. L. Bickford, First National Bank, Napa, Calif., by H. C. Bryant; Wilfred Lyon, 2423 Elmgrove, Los Angeles, Calif., by Roland C. Ross; H. H. Garner, 250 W. First St., Pomona, Calif., by J. Eugene Law; Russell Hubricht, 1023 W. 8th St., Los Angeles, Calif., and Dominic Louis Serventy, Railway-parade, East Cannington, Western Australia, by Harold Michener; Frank G. Grasett, Green Bay Rd., Glencoe, Ill.; Dr. L. J. Cole, Univ. of Wis., Madison, Wis.; Martha Heermans, Hayden, Ariz.; Richard H. Pough, 4 Lenox Place, St. Louis, Mo.; John Bartram, West Chester, Penn.; Harold Wing, Jackson, Mich.; Loring W. Turrell, Smithtown Br., Long Island, N. Y.; Benjamin Hoag, Garfield, Rensselaer Co., N. Y.; Karl Plath, 2847 Giddings St., Chicago, Ill.; Edward A. Preble, 3027 Newark St., Washington, D. C.; Samuel E. Perkins, 701 City Trust Bldg., Indianapolis, Ind.; S. Gilbert Emilio, 156 Hobart St., Danvers, Mass.; George W. Friedrich, 3029 Belmont Ave., Chicago, Ill.; Frank B. Foster, P. O. Box H, Haverford, Penn.; Dr. Alexander W. Blain, 2201 Jefferson Ave., Detroit, Mich., and Archie Hull, Brigham City, Utah, all by W. Lee Chambers.

Mr. Ross raised the question of the protection of the Sage Hen in the state and told of his estimates made in Mono County. He believes that the population of the birds is being greatly reduced and that the season should be permanently closed. Similar opinion was voiced by several other members.

Mr. Sidney Peyton reported the collecting of two sets of Poor-will in Ventura County during the past season and produced evidence to show that the birds breed twice in a season.

The speaker of the evening, Dr. Loye Miller, gave an account of the Nature Guide Service in Crater Lake National Park during the past summer. The educational value of the work was stressed both as regards ornithological interests and general recreational work. Several points of interest were mentioned regarding the avifauna of this region as worked over by the Nature Guide Staff.

Adjourned.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Secretary.*