

species represented are those that, many of them, are far-famed, and they have been accurately drawn and well reproduced.

Under the direction of Mr. F. S. Hall, President, and Mr. A. M. Winslow, Secretary, a regional meeting of the Northwest Bird and Mammal Club for the benefit of its British Columbia members was held at the home of Mr. J. W. Winson, Huntingdon, B. C., on the afternoon and evening of Saturday, April 30. Addresses on birds and mammals were given by Drs. Farmer and Kincaid, and Messrs. Edson, Scheffer, Bowles, Kitchen, Brown, Jay, Warburton, Booth and Racey. An enjoyable and instructive meeting was brought to a close at 10:00 P. M. by a vote of thanks to the ladies headed by Mrs. Winson for the pleasant manner in which they had provided for the social features of the evening.

In the death of Dr. H. W. Mills, which took place in San Bernardino, March 26, 1927, the Cooper Club lost an active member, highly regarded as a worthy exponent of our science. He was keenly alert as a seeker after a correct knowledge, first-hand, of the animal life out-of-doors in his part of the country. That he was a true naturalist by instinct may in part account for his success as a student of human behavior and frailties; he had become eminently successful as a physician and surgeon. Club members in southern California have expressed their admiration of Dr. Mills in high terms and his death is widely mourned.

#### PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

HOFFMANN'S "BIRDS OF THE PACIFIC STATES".<sup>1</sup>—This review will be brief and to the point; and the point is that Hoffmann's new book is, in the present reviewer's solemn opinion, the most satisfactory popular manual yet provided for its territory.

To speak along the same vein but in other terms, the "Birds of the Pacific

States" is, ornithologically, literarily, and pictorially (these three qualities in combination, be it noted) the best yet in its class of one-volume field manuals. It is immeasurably better than nine-tenths of the current "popular" bird books that are widely pushed by their various publishers; for it has been written by an author with conscientious scruples as regards accuracy in making and recording his own field observations, an author who has taken pains to sift previous literature and acquaint himself with current conclusions, and one who has withstood the pressure from publishers to "jump into the market". In this latter respect, Mr. Hoffmann has, to the reviewer's personal knowledge, occupied himself with assiduity on the present undertaking for the past seven years; and the volume is not a large one. No haste here, with inevitably resulting failings.

The reader of Hoffmann's "Birds of the Pacific States" is impressed by the element of conciseness apparent throughout. Furthermore, the species are all treated upon a well-worked-out and uniform plan. The living bird is stressed; this is not a systematic treatise and is not dependent upon bird-skins to make it useable. It is truly a field book.

With regard to illustrations, as our citation of the matter on the title-page indicates, Allan Brooks is the sole illustrator. He presents his work in two types, as colored plates and as line figures in the text. The plates are excellent, save for the over-coloring of some of them which, no doubt, is the fault of the engraver, or the pressman, or both. The line work represents a departure on the part of Major Brooks from his customary style of drawing, and it is toward this that we, therefore, direct particular scrutiny. For the most part, the technique is well adapted for reduced reproduction. Ornithologically, the great majority of the birds strike one as "natural" in postures, as well as in color pattern, in so far as black and white can render them so. In a few cases, however, we can hardly believe Brooks to have been well acquainted with his subjects; for example, the Wren-tit and the Russet-backed Thrush. Come to think of it, we cannot recall any drawing, by anybody, of a Wren-tit that looked anything like the bird! Rather too much background is introduced in a few cases; in one case, that of the Gila Woodpecker, the perspective is such that the bird becomes a Roc as to size!

<sup>1</sup> Birds of the Pacific States | Containing brief biographies and descriptions | of about four hundred species, with especial | reference to their appearance in the field | by | Ralph Hoffmann | Member of the American Ornithologists' Union | Director of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History | With ten plates in color and over two hundred | illustrations in black and white | by | Major Allan Brooks | Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union | [Design] | Boston and New York | Houghton Mifflin Company | The Riverside Press Cambridge | 1927; crown 8vo, pp. xx + 363, illus. as above. Price, \$5.00. Our copy received June 2, 1927.

Despite the above adverse comments, the illustrations are so numerous, their subjects so well selected for the purpose of aiding the amateur, and the average of their ornithological merit so high, that Brooks' work must be weighted almost as greatly as the author's is with respect to the text, the association resulting in, as we said at the outset, the best popular bird-book yet, for use throughout California and the adjacent states.—J. GRINNELL, *Berkeley, California, June 8, 1927,*

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB  
MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

APRIL.—The April meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club consisted of a brief business session held at 2:00 P. M. on April 30, 1927, in room 200 of the Hearst Memorial Mining Building on the University Campus, Berkeley. President Storer was in the chair and a quorum was present.

Names of persons proposed for membership in the Southern Division at the March meeting were read. The following new proposals for membership were read: Frederick R. Collins, 1032 Hyde St., San Francisco, and Louise E. Collins, 1032 Hyde St., San Francisco, by Joseph Mailiard; Edwin F. Coman, Jr., 834 Jones St., San Francisco, by Milton S. Ray; Mrs. Florence Eichwaldt, 721 Sunset Blvd., Hayward, Calif., by H. S. Swarth; Nellie May Tegland, Museum of Paleontology, Berkeley, by Edna M. Fisher; George L. Whitmore, 1094 Euclid Avenue, Berkeley, by Joseph Dixon.

The Chair appointed Miss Margaret W. Wythe to act as Secretary pro tem during May and June, in the absence of the regular Secretary.

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

MAY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, May 26, 1927, at 8:00 P. M. In the absence of both president and vice-president, the Club voted that Mr. Joseph Dixon act as chairman. Forty-seven members and visitors were in attendance. April minutes of the Northern Division were read and approved. April minutes of the Southern Division were read.

A communication was read from Mr. Tracy I. Storer, tendering his resignation

as president of the Northern Division, because of an extended trip in the east. It being the opinion of members present that the vice-president could satisfactorily attend to the business of the Club during the absence of the president, and that it would be a pleasure and advantage to have the Club represented by its president in eastern circles, it was moved, and unanimously voted, that this resignation be *not* accepted. Appreciation was also expressed for the splendid way in which the president carried through the Second Annual Meeting of the Club at Berkeley, in April.

Mr. Dixon spoke of Mr. Ralph Hoffmann's forthcoming book, "Birds of the Pacific States", as meeting a real need of bird students in being a most helpful field guide.

There being no further business, the program of the evening was announced—"reports of local field trips". Discussions of trips under the leadership of Mrs. A. S. Allen were given by two members of her class. Mrs. A. S. Kibbe reported for trips to the Berkeley hills, Baumberg, Boulder Creek, Ross and Moraga; birds of special interest noted were Western Gnatcatcher, Rufous-crowned Sparrow and Creeper in full song, nesting Killdeer, and Sanderling. Mrs. Mead told of trips over the Joaquin Miller tract and to the Boy Scout camp in Oakland, where on March 29 there was still a large flock of Varied Thrushes and another of Golden-crowned Kinglets, while Red-breasted Nuthatches and Audubon and Lutescent warblers were also conspicuous. She described the Lafayette trip, with a total of 44 birds, and the Alameda trip with a list of 33 birds; also a most enjoyable outing to Point Bonita, where all three kinds of cormorants were observed.

Mrs. H. J. Taylor gave an interesting summary of "six trips afield" under the leadership of Dr. Bryant. Long lists of species were not the main objects of these trips, attention being put upon birds of particular interest as they presented themselves to notice. One trip, to Golden Gate Park, netted 14 nests of Allen Hummingbirds; another trip, to Baumberg, produced a nesting Snowy Plover; while the trip to Lake Merced was notable for the nest of a Tule Wren.

Mr. G. L. Whitmore then told entertainingly of experiences with birds in his garden: his experiments with providing food, bath, and nesting materials; several interesting incidents of his nesting birds, exhibiting a Wren-tit's nest partially lined