

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The third annual meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club will be held in San Diego from Friday to Sunday, May 4, 5 and 6, under the auspices of the San Diego Society of Natural History. Headquarters of the meeting will be at the Society's Museum in Balboa Park. The local committee of arrangements, through its chairman, Clinton G. Abbott, urges all Cooper Club members to make immediate note of the dates and to attend the meeting if it is any way possible. A representation from the east is assured. The program of papers, both technical and popular, will be supplemented by an exhibition of original bird paintings and drawings by Allan Brooks. The San Diego Society of Natural History, which has been in existence since 1874, promises to have some of its treasures on display, including three specimens of the extinct Guadalupe Caracara. The San Diego region provides a wide choice of field-trip possibilities, both by land and water, and this feature of the meeting will be well taken care of. The bird-loving public, whether Club members or not, will be welcome to attend all these events.

Certain of our non-collecting friends are accustomed to casting aspersions upon the ethical code of the average collector, especially that of the collector of birds' eggs. We, personally, do not believe that the egg collector is any more prone to disregard ethical proprieties than the collector in any other natural history field. Now comes an experiment to the point. Miss Emily Smith, in her noteworthy article in the current issue of *THE CONDOR*, discloses the location, even to the exact nesting niches, of a "colony" of the rare Black Swift. These sites are readily accessible, and in a locality quickly reachable from a metropolis of collectors. Let us now see if Miss Smith's appeal against disturbance of the Swifts the coming nesting season be heeded. Obviously, only *CONDOR* readers will be in possession of the facts. We egg-collectors are on trial.—J. G.

It is gratifying, as we have remarked before, to note the increasing spread of book collecting as a recreation or hobby. There are probably ten ornithological libraries of fair size now to the one of

twenty years ago. However, the mere collector, who prizes first editions and rare bindings above all else, hasn't so much of our sympathy as the striving naturalist who wishes to have at arm's length a well-selected set of books for reference. Chief of these books will be bound volumes of periodicals; for among the articles published in our periodical literature are to be found the chief original and authoritative sources of current ornithological thought. Now the book-collector's notion is that only a *complete* set of a given periodical is of real value. Indeed, we have heard such an one declare that he would rather have no part of a given set until such time as he can obtain the entire set, including the usually exceedingly rare and costly early volumes. What we wish to emphasize here is that, from the standpoint of immediately useful ornithological knowledge, the later volumes in any series are worth far more than the earlier volumes in the same series. For example, there is no question that the later volumes of *THE CONDOR* and *The Auk* are vastly the more informative. In other words, for the serious student of birds, the incomplete set comprising the later volumes, the ones easiest to acquire, are of themselves eminently worth while possessing, *and reading*.—J. G.

### MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

#### NORTHERN DIVISION

NOVEMBER.—The Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club held its November meeting in Room 101 Zoology Building, University of California, Berkeley, on November 22, 1927, at 8:00 p. m. Vice-president Mailliard occupied the chair and about sixty members were present. Minutes of the Northern Division for October were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division were read. The name of Mr. B. D. Dexter, 2519 Ashby Avenue, Berkeley, was proposed for membership by Mr. E. D. Clabaugh.

Mrs. Kibbe reported that on November 11, at Seabright, she had watched three Herring Gulls performing the seemingly impossible feat of swallowing starfish four inches in diameter. Mr. Mailliard reported the continued presence of the al-