

sociated with the American Wild Fowlers guarantee that here is an organization of sportsmen with the caliber to exercise their influence intelligently from the scientific natural history standpoint.—J.G.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

APRIL.—The April meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at 8:00 p. m. on April 26, 1928, in Room 101, Zoology Building, University of California, Berkeley. Minutes of the Northern Division for March were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for March were read. The name of Miss Clara M. Stedman, 3871 Howe St., Oakland, Calif., was proposed for membership by J. Grinnell.

Mr. Brighton C. Cain and Mr. Philbrick Smith called attention of those present to the exhibition of birds proposed in candidacy for State Bird at the Oakland Public Museum. Mr. C. B. Lastreto read a newspaper clipping announcing a proposed blue jay shoot; this was commented upon by several members. Mr. Harwell reported a colony of about 25 Cliff Swallows nesting in Oakland. Mr. Grinnell reported having seen males of four species of hummingbirds in Strawberry Canyon on April 21. Mr. Storer announced that on an April Sunday Mr. Clabaugh and himself had seen 42 species of birds in the Solano hills. Mr. Mailliard told of the continued presence of the albino Ruddy Duck in Golden Gate Park and said that it had been seen on nearly every one of the lakes there.

Speakers of the evening were Mr. Joseph Mailliard and Mr. H. S. Swarth. The latter spoke upon the bird-life of Arizona in general and the changes which have come about since early collectors combined the avocation of bird study with the vocation of protecting settlers from Apache raids. Most of these changes Mr. Swarth found were caused either directly or indirectly by the over-grazing of the cattle ranges.

Mr. Mailliard's talk, which was illustrated by slides, dealt with the Santa Rita Mountain region of southeastern Arizona, where he had camped both spring and fall about seven miles north of the town of Patagonia. Mr. Mailliard enumerated the species he found about the ranch house there, with its grove of cottonwoods, and then those species found

in the drier and more sparsely inhabited areas. Adjourned.—HILDA W. GRINNELL, *Secretary*.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

MARCH.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Southwest Museum, Los Angeles, on March 27, 1928, at 8 p. m., with President Chambers presiding. About forty members and friends were present. The minutes of the February meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved. The minutes of the February meeting of the Northern Division were read.

The following applications for membership were read: Charles Harlan Abbott, Professor of Zoology, University of Redlands, 28 South University St., Redlands, Calif.; John H. Drengberg, 1370 Los Flores Drive, Eagle Rock, Calif.; John D. Lyons, Jr., Route 1, Box 6, Tucson, Ariz.; Otto McCreary, Agricultural Hall, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming (all proposed by W. Lee Chambers); and Charles Homer Cooper, Elk Grove, Sacramento Co., Calif., proposed by Harold Michener.

Dr. Miller reported that plans for the Annual Meeting were progressing satisfactorily. Major Allan Brooks, at the request of President Chambers, gave a short talk and expressed pleasure at being able to attend a Cooper Club meeting after so many years since the last such opportunity.

Dr. Miller, the speaker of the evening, told in his entertaining manner of the fossils found in the asphalt deposits of Carpinteria, California; and he pointed out some of the differences between the animal and plant remains found in the three known deposits of the kind, at Carpinteria, Rancho La Brea (Los Angeles), and McKittrick. From the plant remains at Carpinteria, which include both staminate and pistillate flowers of mistletoe and pine, and other flowers, seeds, leaves and stems so perfectly preserved that even the fine hairs still remain, it is concluded that the climate there was more humid than at present—climate and vegetation much like those now at Pacific Grove. The birds represented were mostly land birds—California Peacock, California Quail (almost exactly like the one of today), hawks, eagles, some long-legged waders, one goose, and two ducks. The complete absence of gulls was remarked on by Dr. Miller as one of the unexplainable fea-

tures of all three of these asphalt deposits.

Dr. Bishop suggested that Major Brooks and Dr. Miller imitate some bird notes for the audience. The notes of the various forms of owls received the greatest measure of attention, perhaps because of the lateness of the hour. Adjourned.—
HAROLD MICHENER, *Secretary*.

THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

At San Diego, California, on Friday to Sunday, May 4 to 6, 1928, was held the Third Annual Meeting of the Club at large. Mr. Clinton G. Abbott, Director of the San Diego Museum of Natural History, Mr. Laurence M. Huey and Mr. Albert M. Ingersoll constituted the committee of arrangements, and to their efforts the success of the meeting was largely due. This was the first time the club ever met outside the narrow precincts of the two Divisions. From forty to one hundred persons were in attendance at the scientific sessions on Friday and Saturday; about sixty attended the dinner, and about twenty participated in an excursion by boat to North Coronado Island on Sunday.

The scientific sessions were held in the lecture room of the San Diego Museum of Natural History in Balboa Park. The meeting was called to order on Friday morning by Dr. Loye Miller, president of the Board of Governors, and after receiving greetings from Dr. Abbott and reading greetings from out-of-town members the scientific program began, with W. L. Chambers, President of the Southern Division, in the chair. Dr. Alexander Wetmore related his experiences as "An Ornithologist in Hispaniola", Haiti and Santo Domingo having been the subject of intensive study by him in 1927. A notable feature of his expedition was the discovery of some entirely new forms of birds in the mountainous areas of this island although these had already been extensively hunted over by ornithologists. T. I. Storer discussed "Season Effects of an Arid Region on the Avifauna", pointing out some of the adjustments which birds are forced to make in the American southwest in order to exist there. Joseph Dixon in an excellently illustrated talk on "The Surf-bird's Secret" related his experiences in finding the long sought for eggs of this bird in the Mount McKinley region of Alaska. The gradual narrowing of the possible area for nesting as a result of successive field expeditions was

pointed out. As with various other shore birds the male incubates.

At the end of the morning program a visit was made to the aviaries of the Zoological Society of San Diego under the direction of Henry T. Staats, Jr., where opportunity was had to see many exotic birds and, of particular interest, a nest of the Brush Turkey.

Following luncheon in the restaurant of the Zoological Gardens, the afternoon session, under the chairmanship of George Willett, began. Resolutions were offered on the death of the mother of Donald R. Dickey and on the death of William Leon Dawson. The program began with discussion of "A Problem of Animal Distribution in Southeastern Arizona", by H. S. Swarth, the problem pertaining to the intangible barrier to birds and mammals encountered in the neighborhood of the Santa Rita Mountains. Joseph Grinnell discussed the "Systematics of Some Western Birds", including the lumping of the eastern and western wood pewees as subspecies of one species, the recognition of eastern and western races of the Olive-sided Flycatcher, and recognition of a new and migratory race of the Nuttall Sparrow. These items provoked extensive discussion showing a decided difference of opinion among those present as to what should be the specific and subspecific status of the several forms in the genus *Zonotrichia*. "The Molts of the Loggerhead Shrike", by Alden Miller, was summarized by Loye Miller. Under the title "Where Engineer and Ornithologist Meet", Harold Michener pointed out the difficulties with high tension electrical transmission lines due to bird droppings on the insulators and told how the power companies in southern California had expended approximately \$100,000 before being able successfully to protect their towers against short circuiting by birds. C. G. Abbott gave "A Glimpse of Some British Birds" through excellently colored lantern slides from negatives made by himself some years previously in the British Isles.

Following a dinner at 6:30 p. m. at the University Club the annual meeting of the Board of Governors was held. The reports given at the meeting showed the Club to be in excellent financial condition. Steps are being taken toward incorporation so that the organization may receive bequests for increase of the Endowment Fund which now amounts to upwards of \$10,000. D. R. Dickey resigned as Endowment Secretary. The present officers

of the Board and Editors of *The Condor* were reelected. Dr. Alexander Wetmore was elected as an honorary member of the Board.

The Scientific session on Saturday morning, with J. E. Law presiding, opened with an illustrated account of "The Family Life of the Willow Ptarmigan" as studied by Joseph Dixon in the Mount McKinley region of Alaska. W. H. Thorpe talked on "The Roosting Habits of the Tree Creeper". This, the European subspecies of *Certhia familiaris*, has been found to roost in small compartments in the bark of *Sequoia gigantea* planted in the British Isles since 1853. It is presumed that the birds excavate their own night-time roosting places. A paper by Alden Miller on "The Cardinal in Southern California" (read by T. I. Storer) pointed out the possibility of increase of this species in the south. Incidentally, the members present at the meeting were able to see a live Cardinal in Balboa Park, presumably the bird previously reported by F. F. Gander in *The Condor*. J. G. Tyler discussed "Bird Killing Campaigns", pointing out the serious results likely to proceed from activities of certain ranchers and chambers of commerce in the San Joaquin Valley if their present viewpoint regarding damage by birds is permitted to continue unchallenged. Considerable discussion followed this paper. J. McB. Robertson, under the title "Is *Zonotrichia leucophrys nuttalli* migratory?", told about the capture in successive years of birds probably referable to the subspecies described by Joseph Grinnell the previous afternoon. Loye Miller in a brief discussion of "The Songs of Owls" stated that an owl may be called up to the observer by imitating its notes during the breeding season whenever the observer is within the "territory" of any particular bird. Experiences with the Great Horned Owl, Spotted Owl, Sahuaro Screech Owl and Pigmy Owl were cited in support of his thesis. Miss Hildegard Howard discussed "Prehistoric Bird-remains from the San Francisco Bay Region", her remarks being based on material from the Emeryville Shell Mound. She drew an ecological picture of the bird life which inhabited the region during the period of Indian occupation.

Dr. Charles H. Townsend of the New York Aquarium spoke extemporaneously on a recent successful expedition under his guidance to the Galapagos Islands whence he brought 180 giant land tor-

toises which are to be distributed to various centers in North America in the hope of getting the animals to breed in captivity and thus to save the type from extinction.

A noon luncheon was served in the Japanese Tea House, after which a special exhibit of the work of Major Allan Brooks, arranged by Mr. Harry Harris, was visited. A group photograph was at this time taken on the steps of the Fine Arts Building.

The afternoon session on Saturday was presided over by Clinton G. Abbott. The opening paper on "Bird Banding in the West", by J. McB. Robertson, summarized results obtained by banders in various parts of the western United States. The dispersal of ducks from various breeding grounds and the seasonal variations in capture of crowned sparrows at the speaker's own station were shown by large charts. Recapture of individual birds at localities other than those where originally banded was reported in many instances. E. L. Sumner, Jr., gave an illustrated talk entitled "Notes on the Development of Young Golden Eagles", detailing the history of a nest near Pomona and showing that in the later stages of development the eagles suffered a temporary decline in weight before leaving the nest. H. S. Swarth presented motion pictures entitled "Natural History Features of the Galapagos Islands" made on an expedition to those islands by Captain G. A. Hancock, the films exhibited being by J. R. Slevin. Joseph Grinnell discoursed briefly on the relation between "Linnets and Dandelions" as observed about dwellings and on lawns in Berkeley. A composite film entitled "California Game and Song Birds", embodying material by D. R. Dickey, E. S. Cheney and H. C. Bryant, was presented by the latter. A film entitled "The Sport of Bird Banding", illustrating the operations of Mr. S. Prentiss Baldwin in connection with the Bird Research Laboratory at Gates Mills near Cleveland, Ohio, was presented by Miss Blanche Vignos.

On Saturday evening at the U. S. Grant Hotel, the annual dinner was held, and this was followed by brief remarks in happy vein from many of those present, under the stimulating toastmastership of L. H. Miller. The excursion on Sunday provided opportunity for a group to visit the nesting places of sea birds on North Coronado Island.—T. I. STORER, *Secretary, Board of Governors.*