

Joseph Mailliard, of San Francisco, an Honorary Member of the Cooper Ornithological Club, thus to encourage persons who do not have ready access to large libraries or to extensive collections of specimens, to make independent, intensive studies of living birds.

Persons who expect to submit manuscripts should write for directions as to mechanical preparation of the papers to either of the Editors of *THE CONDOR*, J. Grinnell or J. M. Linsdale, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, California.

THE MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION AT CHARLESTON, S. C., NOVEMBER 20-22, 1928.—The selection of Charleston for the A. O. U. meeting of 1928 proved to be a decidedly happy choice, for the charms of southern hospitality, climate, and "atmosphere" combined to produce most felicitous results. Some doubts may have been felt as to a large attendance amid untried surroundings, but the Union has become bolder of late years in following new paths and the turn-out of members was all that could have been desired. Nearly everyone came, and nearly everyone brought his wife!

The California representatives (Mailliard, Miller and Swarth) were first to arrive, Sunday morning, followed at once by the Washington contingent, twenty-nine in number. Members of the local committee (Messrs. Williams, Sprunt, Sass and Simons) were on hand to greet arrivals at the hotel, and on Sunday afternoon they and their friends took everyone out for a drive through the city and in the surrounding country. Many additional arrivals toward evening added to the success of the informal "get-together" that from then on was in progress at all times not occupied by the formal sessions.

The meetings were held mostly in the Charleston Museum, where Miss Bragg, the Director, and her several assistants, were thoughtful and considerate hosts. The length of the program necessitated double sessions on two mornings, the technical papers being given in a smaller room while those of more general interest were delivered in the large auditorium. The "memorial session," Tuesday evening, was most appropriately held in St. John's Lutheran Church, memorable as the church where Bachman once was pastor. The session devoted to motion pictures was held in the Charleston High

School, on the site of Bachman's home.

An appreciated feature of the meeting was the abundant opportunity for everyone to see something of the surrounding country. Besides the hastily organized drives on Sunday, there was on Tuesday afternoon a motor trip fifteen or more miles from town, covering some of the collecting grounds of Catesby, Audubon and Garden, and taking in also the famous and beautiful Middleton Gardens. Then, the whole of Friday was devoted to a field trip by boats to Dewees Island, where members were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Huyler at their attractive winter home. The western members of the party, at least, will long remember the sail over the placid waters of the bay and along the winding channels, and the walk through the unfamiliar woods of Dewees Island.

The annual dinner, with perhaps 200 present, was held in Hibernian Hall, in a huge, high-ceiled room with the chandeliers hung with ropes of smilax. The dinner was followed by a feature probably unique in the annals of the Union, an entertainment by a Charleston amateur musical organization, "The Society for the Preservation of Spirituals." The negro religious songs thus delivered were applauded by an appreciative audience, who could realize the historical and sentimental value attached to the preservation of this most charming and characteristic music.

Preliminary to the public sessions were the several business meetings, occupying Monday afternoon and lasting far into the night. One Fellow was elected, Arthur T. Wayne, of Mount Pleasant, on the outskirts of Charleston, the outstanding ornithologist of the southern states at the present time. It was a pleasing circumstance that permitted his election at this meeting, but it was a disappointment to the membership that Mr. Wayne was too ill to attend the sessions, or to meet anyone. Another local man, Alexander Sprunt, Jr., of the Charleston Museum, was elected Member. One new name was added to the Council, that of P. A. Taverner.

At this Meeting there were to be seen the familiar faces of most of those on whom the Union has depended for guidance during many years past. There was one, however, whose absence was keenly felt, Dr. Jonathan Dwight, prevented from attending by illness, and absent from an A. O. U. meeting for the first

time since he joined the society in 1886. Dr. T. S. Palmer, secretary, guide, courier—the Pooh-Bah of the organization—was here, there and everywhere, from the moment when he herded his Washington associates into the hotel, to the time when he saw them all safely embarked upon the departing busses. Indefatigable himself, he saw that others, too, were occupied. In clear, resonant tones he told us where to go and when; what tickets to buy, at what price, and what for; when the trains left, and where transportation could be arranged. Nor shall we soon forget the emphasis with which he urged—no, instructed—everyone to be sure to catch the earlier departing of the fleet of boats in which we made our field trip. No wonder that, when he, himself, strolled leisurely down to the wharf at the last minute to embark upon the largest, swiftest, and least crowded of the boats (the last one to leave the dock), an embittered member, bereft of his early morning sleep, hurled the epithet “Mussolini” after him!

The program of papers and talks was a long one. In fact there was expression of opinion from several people present that fifty-four papers was too many for all to receive the attention they were justified in demanding. A few contributions by absentees were necessarily omitted, but even so, though of the remainder none was markedly curtailed in length, nor were many discussions cut short, there was a feeling of hurry to keep up with the program, that, with the present writer, at least, militated against complete enjoyment of the subject matter presented. Such general comment and discussion as was evoked by Griscom's talk on “The Green Herons of the World,” and by Roberts' on “Changes in Distribution of Certain Birds in Minnesota during the Past Fifty Years,” are among the most valuable features of such a meeting, but there were not many cases where such supplementary remarks could be carried to any length.

“Popular” bird talks illustrated with excellent slides, and some with remarkably fine and instructive motion pictures, and an exhibition of bird paintings and drawings in one of the rooms of the Charleston Museum, were attractive to all, and held the attention of many who were not particularly drawn to technical discussions.

A surprisingly large number of those

in attendance remained in Charleston for most of the day following the formal close of the occasion, affording again opportunity for the social foregathering that is such an enjoyable and valued feature of the A. O. U. meetings. The Charleston meeting has passed into history, and the local committee and their collaborators may well feel content with the result of their efforts, and with the pleasure they gave to an appreciative assemblage of visitors.—H. S. SWARTH.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The September meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Northern Division, was held on Thursday, September 27, 1928, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 101, Zoology Building, University of California, with about 100 members and guests present. In the absence of president and vice-president Mrs. Amelia S. Allen occupied the chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for August were read and approved. The following applications for membership were read: Prof. S. F. Light, Department of Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, proposed by Alden Miller; Mr. Vaughan MacCaughy, 508 Sheldon Bldg., 461 Market St., San Francisco, proposed by J. Grinnell; Mr. A. L. Pickens, Room 216, Zoology Building, University of California, Berkeley, proposed by Alden Miller.

Mrs. G. E. Kelly reported that on September 16 a group of Audubon Association members including herself saw two Pectoral Sandpipers on the edge of a fresh-water pool near Baumberg, Alameda County. Even though these birds were not taken, the opportunity for observation was so excellent that the group of observers felt certain of the identity of the birds. Two encouraging reports on the status of the California Clapper Rail were given, Mr. Swarth having observed an individual several times during the past month in the tall marsh grass which has become established along the Key Route fill, and Mrs. Kelly adding that she had recently seen six birds of this species near Dumbarton Bridge. Mrs. Mead saw a Wandering Tattler during the first week of September when visiting the edge of the bay near the ship yards to study Phalaropes. Mrs. Blake reported that two weeks ago she had seen