

ness of man has rendered temporarily indispensable, but to regard them as an end in themselves is dangerous and degrading to our wild life. Our minds, which love a record of any kind, take a poultry-farmer's delight in the multiplication of terns, for instance, at a handful of breeding stations, which Nature is far from sharing."

While it is true that many American naturalists probably have opinions similar to the majority of the ones given in the present work and that summaries of these opinions have been published, it is also true that in most cases writers have failed to publish the *evidence* upon which their views are based. The reader, then, without extensive field experience, must be guided largely by the "authority" of each writer. "Birds in England" is distinguished by containing a large amount of evidence.—JEAN M. LINSDALE, *March 2, 1929.*

Some interesting contributions have recently appeared from the pen of Mr. M. Hachisuka, of Tokyo. One of these is a well illustrated scientific account of "Variations Among Birds (Chiefly Game Birds)" (=Supplementary Publication No. XII, The Ornithological Society of Japan, November, 1928, pp. x+86+12, 4 color plates, 20 halftone plates). Here we have cited examples of various abnormalisms in the coloring of birds—albinism, melanism, xanthochroism and erythrism; also of gynandromorphs, so-called hermaphrodites, and "mutations" and hybrids. Among the latter are described and figured (colored plate by Allan Brooks) crosses between Valley and Mountain Quail, Valley and Desert Quail, and Desert and Scaled Quail.

Another paper of Mr. Hachisuka's is entitled, "Egyptian Birds Mummies" (reprinted from "Tori", Vol. VI, December, 1928, No. 26, 5 pp.). This paper lists some 35 species of birds as represented among the 1000 or more mummies examined by various investigators. We wonder if feathers of any of the species of complicated color pattern were preserved so as to show any positive differences that might obtain between the mean of the species at the time the mummies were made and the mean for specimens in the region of the Nile Valley to-day. In an elapsed interval of, say, 5000 years, there *might*, in the case of intricate barring or mottling of feathers, be apparent some

appreciable change, evidencing evolution in process. Someone with the opportunity and the experience requisite for such an inquiry ought to look into this question. So often we read comments of many laymen and some men of science to the effect that color characters in birds are fleeting—easily and quickly modifiable. We need definite data as to the rate of evolutionary change, whether fast or slow, in terms of millennia.—J.G.

## MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

### NORTHERN DIVISION

JANUARY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Northern Division, was held in Room 101 Zoology Building, University of California, Berkeley, on January 24, 1929, at 8:00 p. m., with Vice-president Clabaugh in the chair and about 75 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for December were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for December were read.

Names proposed for membership were: Miss Mabel Hibbard, 990 Geary St., San Francisco, by Miss Muriel Pettit; Mr. Bob Merrill, Arlington Rd., Berkeley, and Mr. Dan Ormsbee, 333 Alcatraz Avenue, Oakland, by Mr. B. C. Cain. The proposal of Dr. Theodore Sherman Palmer for honorary membership, read before the December meeting, was brought up for final action. Dr. Palmer was unanimously elected, thus ratifying the action taken by the Southern Division at their December meeting. Mr. Swarth suggested that since Dr. Palmer's birthday was but two days off the Secretary be instructed to wire him on that date, of the Club's action. It was so ordered.

The Chairman announced that election of officers of the Division for the current year was in order and that at the December meeting the following nominations had been made: President, John G. Tyler; Vice-president, Ernest D. Clabaugh; Secretary, Hilda W. Grinnell. No other nominations being offered, Mr. B. C. Cain moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a ballot electing these persons to office. This was done as ordered.

Mr. Grinnell reported upon the second edition of Taverner's "Birds of Western Canada", recently issued by the National Museum of Canada. Considering pages,

bulk and weight most carefully, he arrived at the conclusion that the two editions are identical in value, save that the new one because of its decidedly smaller bulk is more convenient for taking on field trips. Mr. Swarth reviewed briefly Mrs. Bailey's new book, "Birds of New Mexico", and stated that it is indispensable to all students of the birds of the Southwest, its scope being much wider than the title indicates.

Observations by members were as follows: On January 4, in Marin County, Mr. Cain noted a Pigeon Hawk, a pair of White-tailed Kites, and a Green-winged Teal. Miss Wythe reported that on December 16 she had seen a White-throated Sparrow feeding with White-crowned Sparrows north of the Hearst Gymnasium and that a bird of the same species, presumably the same individual, had been seen in that vicinity several times since. Mr. Clabaugh said that he had captured three different individuals of the White-throated Sparrow in his banding traps this winter and that each had proved pugnacious, quite different in behavior from the Nuttall and Gambel sparrows. Mention was made of Dr. Bryant's having seen a Black-billed Magpie in north Berkeley, Dr. Bryant believing it to be an escaped cage bird. Miss Payne reported Western Robins as having been common in eastern Modoc County during her visit there in December. The birds were feeding upon juniper berries. Mr. Grinnell told of watching a Red-breasted Sapsucker drilling holes in an oak tree just outside his window. After the sapsucker left, the holes were visited by a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Mrs. Allen reported an Audubon Warbler and an Anna Hummingbird as having been seen at sapsucker workings, but whether they were seeking insects or sap could not be determined.

The evening's talk was by Mr. Donald D. McLean, who spoke upon the "Life Histories and Economic Status of the Blackbirds of California". Mr. McLean's experiences with blackbirds in the rice fields of California were described and the problems to be met by the growers were placed clearly before his hearers.

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

FEBRUARY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Northern Division, was held on February

28, 1929, 8:00 p. m., in Room 101, Zoology Building, University of California, Berkeley. Vice-president Clabaugh presided, with about 75 members and guests present. Reading of minutes of both divisions was omitted.

Proposals for membership were as follows: Mr. Albert Ballard, University Farm, Davis, by T. I. Storer; Miss Margaret M. Edward, Crockett, and Mrs. Elmer E. Hall, 1501 LeRoy Ave., Berkeley, by J. Grinnell; Miss Violet D. Holgersen, 2616 Channing Way, Berkeley, by Susan E. Chattin. A letter from Dr. T. S. Palmer was read in which he expressed his appreciation of the action of the Cooper Club in electing him to Honorary Membership. A communication from the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was presented by the Secretary with a request for instructions as to participation of the Cooper Club in the annual meeting of the Pacific Division in Berkeley, June 19 to 22, 1929. A motion was made by Mr. Dixon that, since the meeting of the American Association so closely follows the annual meeting of the Cooper Club held in May in the Bay region, the Cooper Club refrain from offering a program at the June meeting. Following a protest from Mr. Lastreto, Mr. Dixon offered as a substitute motion that the Chair appoint a committee to consider the matter. This motion was carried and the Chair announced the appointment of Mr. Grinnell as chairman of a committee of three to consider the matter and report at the March meeting, the chairman to select his two associates. Dr. Bryant reported that the Black-billed Magpie observed at large three months ago in the neighborhood of Euclid Avenue and High Court, Berkeley, is still to be seen there. Mr. Clabaugh told of having seen a European Widgeon on Lake Merritt recently.

The evening's speaker was Mr. John G. Tyler of Fresno, who made a forceful appeal to Cooper Club members to help save California's rapidly disappearing bird life. During thirty years of field observation in the central part of California, Mr. Tyler has noted an alarming and steady decrease in the bird population. Among contributing causes Mr. Tyler listed the bringing of wild land under cultivation; the increasing accessibility of areas which during the days of horse-drawn vehicles were too remote to be often visited by hunters; the network

of wires above our highways which kill or cripple flying and especially migrating birds; the poisoning of orchard birds; the holding of "bounty shoots"; and the criminally thoughtless way in which the vacationist with a gun shoots every bird which unconsciously offers itself as a target. An earnest discussion followed Mr. Tyler's talk. At the close of the evening Mr. Tyler asked his hearers seriously to consider present conditions, as outlined in his talk, with a view toward concerted action on the part of the Cooper Club in an effort to better these conditions. Adjourned.—HILDA W. GRINNELL, *Secretary*.

**MARCH.**—The March meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Northern Division, was held on March 28, 1929, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 101, Zoology Building, University of California, Berkeley. Vice-president Clabaugh presided, with about sixty members and guests present. Reading of minutes of both divisions was omitted. The name of Leon Kelso, 9901 East Colfax St., Aurora, Colorado, was proposed for membership by J. Grinnell. For Honorary Membership the name of Mr. J. Eugene Law was brought before the Club, the proposal reading as follows:

We, the undersigned members of the Cooper Ornithological Club, hereby propose for Honorary Membership in this organization, John Eugene Law, of Altadena, California. In event of favorable action upon our proposal, we believe that the Club will thereby confer lasting recognition upon Mr. Law for the many years of loyal service that he has unselfishly given to the Club. Furthermore, in the interests of scientific ornithology, Mr. Law deserves the recognition by reason of the high standards of accuracy always shown by his published articles, as also because of his important contributions to methodology in the fields of bird banding and plumage study. On the other hand, by favorable action upon this proposal, the Club itself will gain by the addition of a worthy name to its Honorary Membership, already of distinguished constitution. [Signed] W. Lee Chambers, Tracy I. Storer, Joseph Mailliard, Joseph Grinnell; Date, March 8, 1929.

A second reading of the proposal was waived and Mr. Law's election to Honorary Membership was unanimously voted.

The Committee appointed at the February meeting to consider the advisability of holding a meeting of the Cooper Club at the time of the A.A.A.S. meeting in June reported adversely after a canvass of members. This committee consisted of Messrs. Jean M. Linsdale, Alden H. Miller and Joseph Grinnell, the latter as chairman.

The following set of resolutions and suggestions from Mr. John G. Tyler was read and its acceptance moved by Mr.

Grinnell. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harwell and unanimously carried. Mr. Clabaugh, Chairman of the evening, announced that he would leave the appointment of the committee in the hands of Mr. Tyler, president of the Northern Division.

WHEREAS reports reaching the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club seem to indicate that certain species of our California bird population are undergoing depletion, or are in danger of actual extermination; and

WHEREAS facts do not seem to be at hand to warrant any safe conclusions regarding this matter; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club considers it advisable to appoint a committee of three or more members to make as thorough an investigation as may be possible of the different groups of California birds with a view to determining whether or not our non-game birds are receiving adequate protection; and be it further

RESOLVED that this committee be requested to conduct its activity along the lines suggested in the attached memorandum and that the final report be rendered to the Northern Division not later than the October meeting, 1929.

Suggested outline of investigations to be carried on by a committee of three from the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club:

1. A survey of our native birds by groups, if not by species, to determine which groups, or species, if any, are in danger.
2. A review of the present and proposed laws relating to non-game birds with a view to determining whether or not such laws are adequate to preserve our non-game birds.
3. To determine whether or not existing laws are being observed, especially by farmers, fruit growers and vacationists.
4. To determine whether or not anything more can, or should, be done in the way of educational work to acquaint our citizenry with our native bird population and its economic importance.
5. To consider ways and means of making certain that when future laws are proposed or enacted they have the careful consideration of the Cooper Ornithological Club in time to make possible a campaign to assure either their passage or their rejection.
6. To give consideration to the feasibility of some form of outing license to be paid by the non-sportsman population with a view to developing a fund for use in educational or promotional work in order to meet the challenge of the sportsmen that since they support the Fish and Game Commission they should dictate all matters of policy.

Mr. Swarth announced the sad news of the death of Robert Ridgway and offered this resolution: "It seems fitting that the Cooper Club should go on record as appreciative, we will not say of the loss that American ornithology has sustained, but rather of the tremendous benefits it has received and of the advances it has made, through the unselfish efforts and the brilliant studies of the man who has just finished his labors." Mr. Swarth then asked that Dr. Evermann, as the one man present who had been intimately acquainted with Robert Ridgway, second the resolution. This Dr. Evermann did and gave a vivid sketch of Ridgway's industry and charming personality.

The evening's program was given over to observations by members, the most detailed talk being that by Mrs. Mexia upon her interesting experiences with the bird life of Mt. McKinley Park, Alaska. Adjourned.—HILDA W. GRINNELL, *Secretary*.

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION

**JANUARY.**—The January meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Los Angeles Museum on January 22, 1929, instead of the last Tuesday of the month, which is the customary date.

The call to order was sounded promptly by the president, W. Lee Chambers, who, in the absence of the secretary, called Loye Miller as secretary *pro tem*. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by title and the names of the following were proposed for membership: Mr. J. C. Edwards, 629 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, and Dr. Dave Silverstone, 1232 Maryland Ave., Los Angeles, both proposed by J. Stuart Rowley; Miss Annie G. Harvey, P. O. Box 1195, Fresno, proposed by Nita A. Blayney; De Milt Morse, P. O. Box 217, Morro Bay, proposed by Geo. W. Morse; Leroy Weight Arnold, 3445 Park Blvd., San Diego, proposed by Frank F. Gander; Rev. Augustine Clark Mackie, Vernon, British Columbia, proposed by J. A. Munro; Miss Marion Leffingwell, 250 Foothill Blvd., Arcadia, proposed by Donald R. Dickey and W. Lee Chambers; John E. Cole, 2143 Parkview Ave., Pasadena, Christopher Henne III, 1258 Hillcrest Ave., Pasadena, Dr. C. E. Ehinger, 730 Grand Ave., Keokuk, Iowa, Mrs. W. S. Randall, 618 E. 15th St., Oklahoma City, Okla., Samuel Nesbitt Evins, 1317 Atlanta Trust Co. Bldg., Atlanta, Ga., and Martha Heermans, Hayden, Ariz., all proposed by W. Lee Chambers.

The report of the nominating committee was then called for. The following names were placed in nomination for the year of 1929: President, Mr. Harry Harris; Vice-president, Mr. George Willett; Secretary, Mr. Harold Michener. As there were no further nominations from the floor, a motion by Mr. Pemberton, seconded by Mr. Peyton, closed the nominations and instructed the secretary to cast the unanimous ballot for the above nominees.

The president-elect was called to the chair and introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr. M. P. Skinner, who spoke on the habits and activities of the grizzly bear. His remarks were based on his long personal experience with the bears of the Yellowstone region. A lively and interesting discussion followed the talk. About fifty members were present.

Adjourned.—LOYE MILLER, *Secretary pro tem*.

**FEBRUARY.**—The February meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Los Angeles Museum on February 26, 1929, Vice-president Willett calling the meeting to order at 8 p. m., with about eighty members and friends present. The minutes of the previous meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved and a letter from Dr. T. S. Palmer, thanking the Cooper Club for his election to honorary membership, was read.

The following applications for membership were read: Fred E. Rettig, Route 1, Box 34-B, Palo Alto, proposed by John McB. Robertson; Elinor Bolles McCabe, Indianpoint Lake, Barkerville, British Columbia, proposed by T. T. McCabe; Eric M. Tait, Summerland, British Columbia, proposed by J. A. Munro; George Lowe Bladholm, 381 Desplaines St., Blue Island, Ill., and Jas. S. Hine, Ohio State Museum, Columbus, Ohio, both proposed by W. Lee Chambers; Geo. W. Fink, Crows Landing, Calif., and Nion R. Tucker, 485 California St., San Francisco, both proposed by Harold Michener.

Before calling on the speaker of the evening, Mr. Willett introduced Mr. A. C. Bent who is spending a few months in California and who responded with appropriate remarks. Dr. Joseph Grinnell was then presented. He told about the birds on the land bordering Eagle Lake, near Lassen Peak, California, with special reference to the effects on the bird distribution of the different habitats and life zones represented around the margin of this lake. Eagle Lake, being on the dividing line between the sage-brush desert area and the timbered, more humid area, offers an excellent opportunity for such studies as Dr. Grinnell has been carrying on there for some years. An interesting discussion followed Dr. Grinnell's talk and continued in visiting groups long after adjournment.—HAROLD MICHENER, *Secretary*.