

two twilights without locating any owls. The following night camp was made in the live oaks of the Tumacacori Mountains, about thirty miles northeast of Nogales. Here the sun had little more than set before elf owls began whistling in various directions. One was collected and several others were located. This station is high above the saguaro belt, and produced such Sierran species as Mearns Quail and Lawrence Flycatcher. The owls showed evidence of breeding in holes in cottonwoods.

The next station was just outside Tucson on the Rillito, in saguaro and mesquite association. Here again the birds began activity as soon as the sun was well down, and they proved to be extremely abundant among the mesquites. They were observed flying up into the saguaros and entering woodpecker holes. The next day, June 2, two complete sets of eggs (of two each) were taken from holes in the saguaros. The return to California was made without further opportunity to look for the birds.

My experience suggests that:

- (1) During the breeding season the Elf Owls readily make their presence known at early twilight and continue calling for some time,
- (2) They are not difficult to locate,
- (3) They are rare or absent in the southwestern part of the state,
- (4) They breed in the mountains up to altitudes far above the saguaro belt,
- (5) They breed later than one would expect owls in warm climate, with secure nesting cavities, to breed.

Notes on the winter distribution of this owl are much to be desired.—LOYE MILLER, *University of California at Los Angeles, July 30, 1929.*

Flying Defense of a Golden Eagle.—On September 2, 1929, we made an interesting trip down the coast of Monterey County from Monterey to a point about fifteen miles below Big Sur. This is the end of the Roosevelt Highway at the present time.

In the early afternoon we noted a young Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) being harried by a Western Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis calurus*). The hawk would circle to gain elevation and then swoop down like a falling body to attack. Just before the hawk reached his enemy the Golden Eagle would roll over in the air so as to have its talons uppermost and would complete the roll as the hawk swept by. This was done several times while the birds remained in sight. The eagle did not seem to hurry its flight at any time and gave the impression that it would rather be left alone than fight back.—L. PH. BOLANDER and CHAS. A. BRYANT, *Oakland, California, September 10, 1929.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

In the death of Roswell Samuel Wheeler in September, 1929, the Cooper Club has lost another of its old-time members. Wheeler joined the Club in 1894, the second year of its existence, to become one of the small coterie whose interest insured the continued activity of the Northern Division. In later years there were periods when his attendance at meetings was irregular or impossible, but he kept

in touch with the Club to the last, and his concern in our well-being was unflagging. Wheeler's interest in ornithology lay mainly in egg collecting, and throughout his life his vacations and holidays were, when possible, devoted to this pursuit. For the past twenty years or more he was in the Oakland School Department, serving as principal in several different schools.—H. S. SWARTH.

The importance of an adequate index for a magazine is seldom realized until one attempts to analyze the contents of some periodical which lacks one. This year, Miss Selma Werner, of San Francisco, merits special thanks for preparing the annual index which terminates volume XXXI of THE CONDOR.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

JULY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on July 25, 1929, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 101, Zoology Building, University of California, Berkeley, with about forty-five members and guests present. Vice-president Clabaugh presided over the meeting. The reading of the Northern Division minutes for June was dispensed with, and only the applications for membership were read from the Southern Division's minutes for May. Minutes of the business session held by the Pacific Division of the A. A. A. S. were acknowledged by the secretary *pro tem*. There were no new applications for membership or committee reports. The invitation of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Association to meet with them on October 24 in San Jose was considered, and on motion of Mr. Linsdale, seconded by Mr. Storer, the Secretary was instructed to send a note of regret, since it did not seem feasible for the Club as a whole to accept their kind invitation at that time. Mr. Storer called the attention of the Club to a pamphlet published by the N. Y. State Museum at Albany, written by Mr. Aretas Saunders, which gives a summary of Mr. Saunders' observations on birds' songs.

Several of the comments on current events among the birds concerned the American Robin. Mr. Dexter told of watching robins feed their young in a nest placed on the concrete foundation of a deep pit under the testing laboratory in the General Electric Building in New York. Although from 20 to 30 men were busy in the laboratory day and night the robins fed their young and brought them to maturity. Mr. Storer commented on the continued spread in range of the Western Robin and the finding of an old nest in a peach orchard several miles south of Marysville in March. He also reported the attendance

of a male European Fieldfare upon a family of Western Robins found by Mrs. Kelly in Alameda.

Mrs. Allen reported upon the food of Evening Grosbeaks at Cisco.

The program of the evening was given by Dr. E. Raymond Hall, who had recently returned from a field trip in Nevada. Although Dr. Hall's object in visiting Nevada was the collection of mammals many birds were observed incidentally and the collecting of the Dusky Grouse in the aspen belt on the west side of Wheeler Peak, and of a peculiar form of junco, provided important additions to the known range of the former and the subspecific standing of the latter.

In addition to the distributional range of birds on the east and west sides of Wheeler Peak, Dr. Hall gave an interesting description of Lehman Cave, a national monument on Wheeler Mountain, and of a rattlesnake's den observed on Red Butte in the bottom of the valley. Encouraging was the report of large numbers of water birds nesting in the Newlands irrigation district near Fallon.

Adjourned.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Secretary pro tem*.

AUGUST.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on August 22, 1929, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 101, Zoology Building, University of California, Berkeley. About forty members and guests were present; Vice-president Clabaugh occupied the chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for July were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for June were read.

Mr. B. C. Cain reported interesting bird observations made while camped near Shadow Lake, in the Sierra Nevada. Mr. C. A. Bryant told of having seen Surf Birds and Black Turnstones during the past three weeks from the observation platform at the Cliff House, San Francisco.

The evening's speaker was Mr. Adrey E. Borell, who reported upon the "Bird-life of Northeastern Nevada". Mr. Borell's talk was illustrated with a series of excellent lantern slides, made available through the courtesy of the Ralph Ellis, Jr., Museum. Mr. Borell's clear account of the activities of such rare species as the Sandhill Crane and the Sage Hen was much appreciated.

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