

July, 1930

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

is often illuminating and never harmful. For instance, of the fighting of mated avocets,—“Strange *matrimonia jurga* these! They should be bitterly denied, because so human, by those ‘on the side of the angels.’”

The splendid book-making of Constable's and the high literary standard are rarely marred. All the more shocking is such a break as “jesture” on page 29.—T. T. MCCABE, *Berkeley, April 29, 1930.*

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB
MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

MARCH.—The March meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday evening, March 27, 1930, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, University of California, with about seventy-five members and guests present and President Storer in the chair. Minutes of the February meetings of both divisions were read. William Schwarting, 681 Spruce Street, Oakland, California, was proposed for membership in the Club by Brighton C. Cain.

Dr. Storer welcomed members to the new meeting place in the Life Sciences Building and recalled that the first meeting of the Northern Division to be held on the University Campus was in July, 1909, in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

Mr. Swarth announced that he had received a letter from Mr. W. Otto Emerson of Hayward suggesting that the 100th anniversary of the birth, June 19, 1830, of J. G. Cooper might be observed appropriately by placing in the Hayward Public Library, erected on the site of Dr. Cooper's old home, a tablet to his memory. Dr. Theodore S. Palmer had also written him, he said, urging that this be done. Dr. Evermann commented favorably upon the plan and said that in company with Mr. Mailliard and Mr. Swarth he had visited the library and found the trustees agreeable to such a course. Dr. Bryant moved that the Chair appoint a committee of arrangements. The motion was duly seconded and unanimously carried. Dr. Storer announced the appointment of Mr. Emerson, Dr. Bryant and Miss Pringle.

Attention of members was called to the bulletin by Davis Quinn entitled “Framing the Birds of Prey”. Mr. Grinnell

stated that he had several copies of this forceful and largely truthful arraignment and would be glad to give them to interested members who might wish to aid in giving publicity to its contents.

The acorn-storing propensities of the California Woodpecker were discussed by Dr. Ritter, Dr. Storer and Mr. Mailliard. The last-named told of seeing a building at Rancho Chowchilla where great quantities of acorns had been stored, and where bees, taking advantage of the holes made by the birds, had stored honey in like proportions. Dr. Storer told of a similar occurrence at the little Catholic Church near Jackson and Dr. Ritter spoke of the activities of the birds at the Mount Diablo Country Club.

The recent slow but steady increase of American Egrets in the State was commented on by Dr. Cook, Dr. Storer and Mr. Streater. Leslie Hawkins reported the arrival of several birds, including two Dowitchers seen near the Key Route mole on March 23. Mr. Cain noted Cliff Swallows in Oakland on March 26. Miss Rinehart saw hundreds of Band-tailed Pigeons on the shoulder of Mt. Hamilton on the 23rd, and Dr. Bryant reported these birds to be damaging the vineyards of the Earl Fruit Company near Bakersfield, by breaking off sprouts when alighting on the vines in search of raisins.

The evening's talk was by Mr. Stanley E. Piper, Associate Biologist, U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey, who spoke upon “The Problem of Damage to Agriculture in California by Birds”. Mr. Piper dealt in a thorough way with this serious problem and showed many slides illustrating the damage done to lima bean plants by horned larks along the coast and to pear and almond blossoms in the interior by sparrows and finches. The damage done to ripening fruits in California, Mr. Piper pointed out, is much greater than in the eastern states where birds do not find it necessary to puncture fruits to slake thirst, as in our arid climate.

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

SOUTHERN DIVISION

MARCH.—The March meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Tuesday evening, March 25, 1930, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, with about twenty-five members and friends present and President Willett in the chair.

The minutes of the Southern Division February meeting were read and approved. The minutes of the February meeting of the Northern Division were read.

The following applications for membership were read: Leroy S. Nelson, 1825 14th Ave., Greeley, Colo., proposed by John McB. Robertson; Paul A. Stewart, Leetonia, Ohio, proposed by Harold Michener; Joseph F. Frazier, 724 Proctor Place, Independence, Mo., proposed by W. Lee Chambers; J. L. Partin, 3324 Drew St., Los Angeles, Calif., proposed by J. Eugene Law; Fred S. Lodge, 423 S. Stone Ave., La Grange, Ill., proposed by A. M. Bailey; Lana Louise Bates, P. O. Box 234, Los Banos, Calif., proposed by J. Grinnell.

Dr. Miller spoke of the coming Annual Meeting and urged everyone to send in the return postal cards, sent out with the notices of the meeting, signifying their intention to attend the meeting and giving the title of a paper to be presented there.

Mr. Wayland Avery was the speaker of the evening. He told of Mr. Montgomery's many years' study of bird flight, the theories which have been formulated from those studies, and the application of those theories, to the airplane, which is being made by the Vortex Wing Company. Following these principles a model airplane has been made which will advance rapidly into a thirty mile per hour wind without any power other than the wind against which it moves. For airplanes made after this model Mr. Avery predicts quicker take off, higher speed, greater safety, less required power, and slower landing speed than with the present types. A general discussion followed Mr. Avery's talk.

Adjourned.—HAROLD MICHENER, *Secretary*.

APRIL.—The April meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Tuesday evening, April 29, 1930, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, with about twenty-five members and friends present and President Willett in the chair. The minutes of the March meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved. The minutes of the March meeting of the Northern Division were read by title only.

The following applications for membership were read: Geo. Hunter, Salinas, Calif., and Fred Post, Salinas, Calif., both

proposed by O. P. Silliman; Eleanor Catherine Layman, 4363 Trias St., San Diego, Calif., proposed by Frank F. Gander; and Gene M. Simpson, 744 N. 11th St., Corvallis, Oregon, proposed by W. Lee Chambers.

President Willett reported the death of Russell Hubricht by drowning in the Salinas River while on a camping trip. The information was obtained from a newspaper report dated April 17. Mr. Hubricht was a keen student of birds and had been a faithful member of the Club for several years. The members present expressed great regret at this untimely loss.

Dr. Miller started the round-table report of recent experiences by telling of a trip to the Channel Islands off the coast of southern California and another into the lower Colorado River basin near Pot Holes. In the latter place he saw the nests of Harris Hawk and Vermilion Flycatcher. He told of his observations about these nests.

Dr. Watson asked if the Vermilion Flycatcher had ever been known to nest in the lowlands of Los Angeles and Orange counties and received the answer that it is known in this vicinity only as a winter visitant. Other rare visitants were mentioned; and in this connection the members present expressed strongly the feeling that these rare visitants should not be collected as specimens except where absolutely necessary for identification.

Mr. Pierce told of visiting, with Mr. Calder, a Prairie Falcon's nest and making observations on the food habits of these birds. Mr. Willett told of a recent trip to Mt. Pinos where he saw the Sooty Grouse, Evening Grosbeak and other interesting birds. Many members spoke of the increase in the numbers of the American Egret.

Attention was called to the action of the Northern Division in appointing a committee to make arrangements for the placing of a tablet in memory of J. G. Cooper, on the 100th anniversary of his birth, June 19, 1830, in the Hayward Public library which occupies the site of Dr. Cooper's old home. Dr. Miller made a motion, which was seconded and carried, that President Willett be appointed a committee-man to act by correspondence with the committee on arrangements from the Northern Division.

Adjourned.—HAROLD MICHENER, *Secretary*.