

contradicts the work of men who have lived and labored with these problems for months or years.—H. S. SWARTH.

THE WOODPECKERS OF OKLAHOMA.¹—In this forty-seven page pamphlet Professor Crabb has given, not only to the specialist in ornithology but also to the beginning student of birds, a condensed and rather complete account of sixteen species and subspecies of woodpeckers which he assigns to the state of Oklahoma. In the beginning he gives a brief account of the economic importance of the group. Here he considers all except members of the genus *Sphyrapicus* as being beneficial. All of the species of *Sphyrapicus*, he says, are more or less detrimental; then he adds a qualifying statement (p. 111) in which he says that the damage they do is more apparent than the good they do, thereby not really committing himself.

The author's discussion of the economic importance of the woodpeckers is followed by a brief statement of the characters of the family and an explanation of how to take the various measurements employed with study skins, certainly an aid to the beginner who is trying to identify birds. Next comes a general account of each species, in which he followed a uniform method of treatment throughout. The following order is employed: scientific name; common name, with A. O. U. number; range of species; description of call notes in many instances; measurements; detailed description of plumage of adult male and female, and of young; and a discussion of the habits of the birds. For data on food habits he draws freely upon information from other sources than his field notes, especially from Beal. However, much of his information on the habits of the birds he has gathered from personal observations made in the field. At the end of the paper is a list of twenty-five titles cited in the text.

Considering the paucity of comparative material available to him for the systematic treatment, and the fact that his earlier notes were destroyed by fire, I think that Professor Crabb is to be commended for this work. A few more illustrations possibly would have made it of more service to the teacher and to the student of birds in Oklahoma.

Unfortunately there are usually a few

typographical as well as other errors in any publication. The most serious of these in the present paper is to be found on page 114 where the author attributes 100 genera of woodpeckers to North America. Also plate 1, in which he figures the hyoid and tongue arrangement in *Colaptes*, *Dryobates*, and *Melanerpes*, is inverted. The latter error is very probably the fault of the publishers. But, after all, we should not discount the real value of an important contribution because of a few minor errors that happened to creep in.—W. H. BURT.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

DECEMBER.—The December meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Tuesday evening, December 30, 1930, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles. About sixty members were present and President Willett was in the chair. The minutes of the November meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved and extracts from the minutes of the November meeting of the Northern Division were read.

The following applications for membership were read: Mrs. Robert C. Hill, Desert Sanatorium, Tucson, Arizona; Dr. Oliver L. Austin, Tuckahoe, Westchester County, N. Y.; Lony B. Strabala, Leetonia, O.; Arthur Goldfrank, 350 N. Stanley Ave., Hollywood, Calif., all proposed by W. Lee Chambers; and Pearl E. Post, Prescott, Ariz., proposed by Edward C. Jacot.

President Willett called on Mr. and Mrs. Clary to report on the progress being made toward the establishment of a game refuge on Salton Sea. Mr. Clary stated that they had not been able to learn much more than has been reported in the newspapers. He is not sure that a game refuge will do much to protect the game birds because of the tactics being practiced by the gun clubs there. If the ducks are not on the gun club grounds, so they can be shot, an airplane is sent out to find them and scare them up so they will fly to the gun club grounds. President Willett said he hopes the game refuge will be established so that it will protect the colonies of White Pelicans and other birds nesting on the islands in Salton Sea.

The Chair appointed as a nominating

¹The Woodpeckers of Oklahoma, by Edward Drane Crabb. Publ. Univ. Okla., Biol. Survey, vol. 2, 1930, no. 3, pp. 111-158, 4 pls.

committee Dr. Rich, Wright Pierce and Luther Little, with instructions to report at the January meeting nominees for the offices of the Southern Division for the ensuing year. A telegram from Dr. E. W. Nelson was read, expressing his regret that a severe cold prevented his appearing before the meeting. It had been announced that he would speak on the control of predatory animals.

President Willett opened the discussion on the resolution presented at the previous meeting in regard to the proposed ten-year cooperative program for the control of predatory animals. After careful consideration and expressions of opinion by many present, Mr. Glassell moved the adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded and carried. The resolution is as follows:

Whereas the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club stands for the conservation of wild life in general; and

Whereas the experience of members of this club shows increasingly serious conditions for wild life, resulting from the extensive and often indiscriminate campaigns planned and sponsored by governmental executives, ostensibly for the control of animals occasionally detrimental, which campaigns especially through the use of poison are leading toward outright extinction of animals known to be beneficial; and

Whereas such destruction of harmless and beneficial wild life will be greatly increased by the adoption of the ten-year cooperative program for the control of predatory animals as provided in bills, number S. 3483 and H. R. 9599, now before Congress; therefore

Be it resolved that this proposed ten-year program should be abandoned; and

Be it further resolved that the executive officials of the Bureau of Biological Survey should: (1) Assume an impartial viewpoint, not stressing damage done by any species and underrating its benefits; (2) return to its former policy of recommending control only where need is shown on the part of the community at large, rather than in some special, minority interest; (3) develop field practice which conforms to stated official policy; and (4) abandon destructive poison operations (save in an emergency) in favor of a method less damaging to wild life in general.

The death of Dr. John Hornung of the Los Angeles Museum staff was announced

by Mr. Willett who said that although Dr. Hornung was not a Cooper Club member the Cooper Club should know that all science has suffered a great loss in the death of this conscientious, painstaking worker.

Dr. Bishop read a clipping stating that scientists have found the cause of the duck malady. Mr. Glassell told of seeing about 500 Sandhill Cranes in stubble fields near Tulare Lake recently. Mr. Clary told of a Blue-footed Booby spending several days on a reservoir in Coachella Valley. Mr. Lusk told very briefly of some of his bird acquaintances in Arizona. Mr. Richardson told of his early start in ornithology in and about Los Angeles, beginning in 1875.

Adjourned.—HAROLD MICHENER, *Secretary*.

JANUARY.—The January meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Tuesday evening, January 27, 1931, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, with President Willett in the chair and about thirty-five members and friends present. In the absence of Harold Michener, the regular secretary, John McB. Robertson acted as Secretary pro tem. The minutes of the December meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved; no minutes from the Northern Division were on hand.

Applications for membership were read as follows: Stuart O'Melveny, 1233 Garfield Ave., South Pasadena, California, proposed by Loye Miller; Randolph Jenks, Mesa Ranch School, Mesa, Arizona, and L. Morgan Boyers, P. O. Box 2786, Stanford University, California, proposed by Mrs. Ben L. Clary; William Reid McManus, Memramcook, New Brunswick, Canada, proposed by W. Lee Chambers; Beatrice Maude Wise, Fort Jones, California, proposed by Gayle B. Pickwell; and R. A. Cumming, 610 East 64th Ave., Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, proposed by Louis B. Bishop.

A letter from Dr. Charles W. Richmond was read. This letter was addressed to Mrs. Hilda W. Grinnell, Secretary of the Northern Division, and expressed his appreciation of the recent action of the Cooper Club in electing him to Honorary Membership.

Wright M. Pierce reported that the Nominating Committee appointed at the December meeting had selected the fol-

lowing slate of officers for the year 1931: President, J. R. Pemberton; Vice-president, Harold Michener; and Secretary, John McB. Robertson. President Willett asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Dr. Miller moved that the nominations be closed and that the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the nominees; this was seconded by Dr. Bishop and the motion was carried.

In the absence of J. R. Pemberton, the new President, Ex-president Willett continued in the chair and introduced Milton P. Skinner, the speaker of the evening, who gave a very interesting illustrated lecture in story form, depicting the life history of the elk of the Yellowstone National Park, his slides showing many stages in the development of an elk from birth to old age.

At the close of the program Mr. Willett spoke of having learned through correspondence that Dr. E. W. Nelson expects to be in Los Angeles some time in February and suggested that the date of the February meeting be changed if necessary to suit Dr. Nelson's convenience, so that he might be the speaker at that meeting.

Adjourned.—JOHN McB. ROBERTSON, *Secretary*.

NORTHERN DIVISION

DECEMBER.—The December meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, December 18, 1930, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, with about fifty members and guests present. In the absence of officers, Mr. W. I. Follett presided. November minutes of the Northern Division were read and approved and November minutes of the Southern Division were read. The name of Miss Bernice Kautz, 2804 Stuart Street, Berkeley, California, was proposed by Edna M. Fisher.

The resolution proposing Dr. Charles Wallace Richmond for Honorary Membership in the Cooper Club was given final reading. A motion was unanimously passed electing Dr. Richmond an Honorary Member. Similar action having been taken by the Southern Division, the Secretary was instructed to apprise Dr. Richmond of the Club's action. A motion was made, duly seconded and unanimously passed, that the President of the Northern Division appoint a committee of three to

nominate officers for the Division for the new year; Dr. Storer appointed Mrs. Allen, Chairman, Dr. Evermann and Dr. Alden H. Miller.

The program of the evening was given by Mr. Joseph Grinnell who spoke upon "Type Localities of Birds Described from California."

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

JANUARY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Northern Division, was held on January 22, 1931, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, with about sixty members present. Mr. W. I. Follett presided. December minutes of the Northern Division were read and approved. December minutes of the Southern Division were read. Mr. Reed W. Ferris was proposed for membership in the Club by Thomas T. McCabe.

Two letters were read by the secretary: the first from Dr. Charles W. Richmond expressing his appreciation of the Club's action in making him an Honorary Member; the second from Mrs. F. T. Bicknell, thanking the Northern Division for its support in the campaign to select a State Bird.

Mrs. James T. Allen, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported its selections to be: President, George M. Wright; Vice-president, Jean M. Linsdale; Secretary, Hilda W. Grinnell. Mr. Joseph Dixon moved that the report of the committee be accepted and the Secretary be instructed to cast a ballot electing these persons for the in-coming year. It was so voted and done.

Mr. Joseph Grinnell reported on the progress being made on the new A. O. U. Check-list. Mr. B. C. Cain announced that both Mr. Marshall Jencks and himself had noted the Dusky Warbler and the Black-throated Gray Warbler wintering again this year in Mosswood Park, Oakland.

Mr. J. Kenneth Douth of the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, then reported at length upon a trip made to Labrador three years ago, through the generosity of Mr. John B. Semple. Mr. Douth's excellent talk was illustrated by lantern slides, many of which had been colored by Mr. George M. Sutton who was a member of the same expedition.

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