

themselves would be worth upon a meat valuation alone. The writers' conclusion that "for the loss of herring there is a reasonable compensation in the production of ducks" is a most logical one. It is pointed out furthermore that the birds could be fairly easily frightened away from the area; an official authorized to shoot for the purpose is suggested.

So far as gulls are concerned, it appears that they feed mostly on herring spawn that is cast upon the beach, that being in quantity more than is consumed by all natural enemies together. The destruction of spawn by birds "does not appear to be abnormal or excessive and if there has been a reduction in numbers of herring, it is a relatively recent condition and attributable primarily to man's interference with natural conditions."

This is the inevitable conclusion in all such cases; man is the arch destroyer. With characteristic hypocrisy, however, he always seeks to place the blame on minor destructive agents. Even if the blame could properly be shifted and the extermination of natural enemies permitted and accomplished, that would not be the end of the story. If some temporary gain were thus achieved, man, in his greed, would soon bring about just as great depletion as before. In other words the condemned natural enemies called vermin or worse by one side, and held by the other to be beautiful and interesting representatives of animate nature, would be wasted without any permanent gain. Preservation of these species, however, would be of permanent value to all to whom the term conservation is more than a by-word. Conservationists must stand against greed-inspired assaults on wild life from the first, lest in the end it be too late.—W. L. MCATEE.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

JUNE.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, June 25, 1931, at 8:00 p. m. in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, with about thirty-five members and guests present. In the absence of the regular officers, Mr. C. B. Lastreto occupied the chair. Minutes of the Southern Division for May were read.

Proposals of new names for membership

were: James Randal Davis, 1915 Marin Ave., Berkeley, proposed by Charles A. Pease; Dr. Lewis Walter Taylor, Poultry Division, University of California, Berkeley, by J. Grinnell; Walter Raymond Salt, Rosebud, Alberta, by T. T. McCabe. A letter from Governor Rolph's secretary was read announcing that the Governor had signed the bill making the California Quail the State Bird. Mr. Grinnell announced the repeal of the Amador County bounty law. He added that this desirable repeal had been brought about through the efforts of Mr. Henry Warrington of Jackson.

The first speaker of the evening was Mr. T. T. McCabe who told of the courting and nesting activities of the Brandt Cormorants at Point Reyes and at the mouth of Tomales Bay. These colonies were visited by Mr. McCabe several times during the spring months and their ways compared with those of European Cormorants as studied by Selous.

Mr. E. L. Sumner, Jr., described the studies he had made of the Pacific Horned Owls nesting on the Los Baños Duck Refuge, near Los Baños, Merced County, where he watched the birds on different occasions between February 23 and June 8. Mr. Sumner's observations covered habits of adults and young, calls, and kinds of food brought to the nest. At the time of his last visit one youngster still roosted with the adults, even though sixty-one days old and twenty-one days out of the nest.

Mr. McCabe then told of a visit made in May to several nesting colonies of Tricolored Blackbirds where sixty or seventy thousand birds were found in one rookery and 2150 nestlings were banded during a twenty-four hour stay. Other colonies were described also. A question asked Donald McLean regarding the food of these birds brought out the fact that just as fast as the rice is sown it is flooded to prevent the birds from taking the grains. A narrow strip of ground in front of the advancing water, covered with rice grains and with mole crickets striving to escape the flood, forms an ideal foraging site for the blackbirds.

Mr. Lastreto described the vast flocks of certain birds he had noted roosting in parks in Colombia and even greater numbers of swallows seen and heard as they took wing from similar roosts in Panama. The evening closed with a discussion of the notes of owls, participated in by Mr.

Mailliard, Mr. McCabe, Mr. McLean, and Mr. Sumner.

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

JULY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at 8:00 p. m. on Thursday evening, July 23, 1931, in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, with about thirty-five members and guests present. Vice-president Linsdale presided. Minutes of the Northern Division for June were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for June were read.

Proposals of new names for membership were: Mrs. H. E. Cook, Rossmont Drive, Redlands, California, Dr. Frank M. Erickson, Route 3, Box 65, Salem, Oregon, and Mrs. Helena Lindsay, Route 4, Box 30, Hayward, California, proposed through the Western Bird-banding Association by E. L. Sumner, Sr.; Mr. E. W. Ehmann, 37 Bellevue Avenue, Piedmont, California, and Samuel B. Locke, Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Ogden, Utah, by J. Grinnell.

Mr. Charles A. Bryant told of having seen an adult Black-throated Gray Warbler feeding a young one near Ross, Marin County, a locality from which this warbler has not been reported as nesting. Mr. Grinnell gave the substance of a letter which he had received from Dr. F. B. Sumner enclosing feathers picked up beside the fresh remains of a house cat in San Felipe Valley, San Diego County. The feathers proved to be those of an adult female Golden Eagle and the inference seemed clear that the cat had met death as the result of an attack by the bird. Dr. Evermann told of seeing an albinistic Brown Towhee in his garden, the basal third of the tail feathers being white. E. R. Hall spoke of visiting Pyramid Lake, Nevada, on July 5, in order to observe the degree of protection afforded the Pelicans there by the presence of a warden. He urged members of the Club to advocate a full-time warden for the Lake, as only by such a guardian could the Pelicans be adequately protected. Mr. Grinnell contrasted his experiences on two days spent recently out-of-doors. In Napa County on July 14 he found Turkey Vultures plentiful, as many as twelve of these birds being seen in the air at once. July 22 he spent in the Mount Diablo country, Corral Hollow and the Livermore Hills, seeing only two Turkey Vultures during

the entire day. He suggested that the vultures in the last named localities may have been killed off by eating thallium-poisoned ground squirrels, whereas in Napa County no thallium has been used. Mrs. E. R. Hall stated that last week on the Redwood-Moraga highway she had seen six vultures at one point. Donald McLaughlin told of birds seen at Recreation Beach on Putah Creek. Among them were Black-headed Grosbeaks, Yellow Warblers and two extremely tame Thrashers. Mr. Linsdale reported seeing a Nuttall Sparrow carrying nesting material after the middle of July.

The evening's speaker was Dr. Charles E. Johnson, of Syracuse, New York, who told informatively of wild life conditions in New York State and of the Roosevelt Wild Life Station at the New York State College of Forestry, situated on the campus of Syracuse University. Among the topics discussed were the efforts being made to conserve the now greatly depleted Ruffed Grouse, the successful introduction of the Ring-necked Pheasant, the experimental status of the Hungarian Partridge, and the study of the natural game refuges comprised in the extensive marsh areas of the central portion of the state where treacherous bogs protect, among other species, Sora and Virginia rails, Little Green Herons, Florida Gallinules, Wood Ducks and Black Ducks.

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

SOUTHERN DIVISION

JUNE.—The regular meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Southern Division, was held at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, Tuesday evening, June 30, 1931. President J. R. Pemberton was in the chair and about twenty-five members and friends were present. The minutes of the May meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved.

Applications for membership were read as follows: Dr. Ralph A. Woods, 2468 West Pico, Los Angeles, proposed by W. J. Sheffler; Mrs. R. B. O'Neill, 102 East 13th St., Tucson, Arizona, proposed by Walter P. Taylor; Miss Vesta Holt, State Teachers College, Chico, California, and Miss Clita L. Walden, 761 East 12th St., Eugene, Oregon, both proposed by Blondel H. Carlton; Mrs. Allen R. Hood, 5965 Fishburn Ave., Maywood, California, and Mrs. Anne Maclay Leffingwell, 706 Cam-

pus Ave., Pullman, Washington, both proposed by W. Lee Chambers; and Carl A. Prah, Box 57, Encinitas, California, proposed by J. R. Pemberton.

As there was no other business to come before the meeting and no stated program, the meeting was opened for discussion and observations. Walter I. Allen had just called on J. Eugene Law who is recuperating from a recent illness at the home of his mother, 941 South Citrus Ave., Los Angeles. Mr. Law sent his best wishes to the meeting by Mr. Allen. Roland C. Ross told of a Road-runner that nested in a bucket hanging in a fruit tree, near Fresno. George Willett spoke of birds observed recently in the San Jacinto Mountains, with special reference to the nesting of the Band-tailed Pigeon. J. R. Pemberton spoke of the presence of young Bald Eagles at Santa Catalina and San Clemente islands.

Mr. Pemberton said that a friend whom he considered a reliable observer had seen twelve Condors and about twenty-five Turkey Vultures about a carcass on one of the big ranches in southeastern Ventura County recently. Condors were formerly common in that part of the Santa Monica Mountains but have been rare there for many years now.

C. O. Reis told of his observation of the destruction of nestlings by a hail storm in the Mammoth Lakes region in June, and Roland C. Ross reported the same storm to have been heavy rain in the Huntington Lake region; they also compared the nesting status of various species of birds at these two points in the Sierra at the time of the storm.

C. O. Reis told of a nest of the Bell Sparrow near San Bernardino that held water during a hard rain storm so that the eggs were covered. Harold Michener told of a Black-headed Grosbeak, banded at their station in Pasadena and killed at Placerville, California; he also reported a scarcity of Linnets at their station this summer. J. S. Appleton told of a House Wren nesting in the chimney of an old lantern. John McB. Robertson spoke of the birds seen on a recent trip to Grand Canyon, Arizona. Walter I. Allen had seen a Yellow-headed Blackbird in Altadena. Roland C. Ross told of a Canyon Wren nesting in a house, and Mrs. Ross told of some observations of the Ouzel in the Big Santa Anita Canyon. A Green-backed Goldfinch was exhibited which had been purchased in a Los Angeles bird

store under the name of "Mexican Siskin".

The meeting was adjourned so that everyone might get better acquainted with a pet spotted skunk exhibited by Mr. and Mrs. Ross.—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, *Secretary*.

JULY.—The regular meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Southern Division, was held Tuesday evening, July 28, 1931, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles. President J. R. Pemberton was in the chair and about thirty-five members and friends were present. The minutes of the June meeting of the Southern Division were read, one correction made, and the minutes approved as corrected. The minutes of the June meeting of the Northern Division were read.

Applications for membership were read as follows: Emile Le Callier, Chateau de la Villette, St. Pierre-les-Elbeuf, France; Mrs. Rex Rice, care of Rice & Co., Douglas, Arizona; and Dr. Leon Patrick, Smith-Grote Building, Orange, California—all proposed by W. Lee Chambers.

A letter was read from Charles M. Wheeler, of the University of California, in regard to preserving specimens and gathering data on the ticks to be found on birds and other wild life in California. Mr. Wheeler asks that such specimens and information be sent to him at the College of Agriculture, University of California, Berkeley.

There being no other business to come before the meeting, J. R. Pemberton presented some moving pictures taken by himself: First some pictures showing the nesting of the Raven on oil derricks in the San Joaquin Valley, and also showing Mr. A. C. Bent climbing to several of the nests. Then the scene shifted to the Channel Islands, giving general views of the islands as seen from the water, and including several of the local Cooper Club members who have enjoyed Mr. Pemberton's hospitality on trips to the various islands. Then some of the nesting colonies of sea birds were shown, including the Black Oyster-catcher and its nest, and colonies of Farallon and Brandt cormorants, Brown Pelican, and Western Gull. Western Gulls were shown in the act of eating the eggs and young of both species of cormorants.

The meeting was then adjourned to allow informal discussion.—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, *Secretary*.