

haps be trusted to leave out a few rodents and smaller passerine birds, but other branches of the Government will take these as injurious to agriculture, so that a thorough job will ultimately be made of it. The last line of this section, "It would be unwise . . . to exterminate any species of predatory birds or mammals", is an entirely inadequate sop to Cerberus. The deep-seated killing complex, with its blind hatred of any animal against which an imaginary "economic" case can be trumped up, is closely allied to, and inflamed by, the sport-complex, which demands a monopoly of killing.

The last consideration which disinclines the writer to sympathize with this doubtless perfectly sincere and highly constructive program is the disappearance which it spells of American "hunting" beneath the new vogue of old-world "shooting." The word *shooter* was not used above without intent, for essentially the two things are as different as daylight and darkness. According to the tradition of the former the knowledge of the country and the problem of finding the game are the chief sources of satisfaction; in the latter case, the game, albeit composed of flesh, bone, and nerves, and animate with life, is merely a difficult and spectacular target, and the single factor of importance is marksmanship, which is developed far beyond anything which wild game shooting has produced in this country. There is no essential difference between shooting over butts in England and the abominable *tire aux pigeons* at Monte Carlo and elsewhere, except that the former is the hardest shooting on earth and superbly dramatic, while the latter is as easy as it is beastly.

The writer, since the days when he was slightly longer than the average pair of gun-barrels, has indulged in a good many forms of sport in a good many climes and seasons, and perhaps his blood is too deeply imbued for him to be safely considered a reformed character. But at least when it comes to backing a great movement to set up as our chief national ornithological ideal the covering of the face of this country with game birds, largely alien in species, like a Scotch grouse moor, to the exclusion of a considerable share of the natural fauna of each region, the best he can say is "not interested." In broadest economic analysis, also, these proposals are an offer, or fore-

shadow an offer, from a small group who can afford it, to the nation for its game birds. In all justice let it be said, they will pay liberally,—far more than the birds are worth otherwise in cold cash. Probably, in the natural sequence of social and economic development, just this must come to pass. Yet the writer dares hope that for the moment, for our time, the Government will have the character to write "Not for Sale" across the face of the proposal.

As we go to press the Foundation has issued further literature which will not exalt its standing among naturalists and conservationists: viz., a powerful and elaborate circularized plea, based on immediate, as opposed to far-sighted, economic grounds, to reduce wild fowl shooting to three days a week throughout the usual season, instead of reducing the season to one month, as has been done. In our opinion the former, even more than the latter, would amount to a mere gesture, and reduce actual shooting imperceptibly. Few wild-fowlers shoot more than three days a week in any season.—T. T. MCCABE, *Berkeley, California, September 1, 1931.*

## MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

### NORTHERN DIVISION

AUGUST.—The August meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday evening, August 27, 1931, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, California, with fifty-five members and guests present. In the absence of the regular officers Mr. Brighton C. Cain occupied the Chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for July were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for July were read. Mr. E. L. Sumner, Sr., through the Western Birdbanding Association, proposed for membership: Lyndon L. Hargrave, Assistant Director, Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, Arizona; Mr. E. E. Horn, 332 Giannini Hall, Berkeley, California; and Mrs. Susan E. Van Zandt, Box 435, Golf Tract, San Rafael, California.

At the request of Mr. C. B. Lastreto, who was unavoidably absent, Dr. Barton W. Evermann introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption.

"WHEREAS, in addition to the serious decrease in numbers of wild fowl of the

United States, consequent upon the restriction of their breeding grounds by agricultural and other encroachments, as well as upon the large increase in the number of hunters, the prevailing period of drouth on the Pacific Coast and elsewhere in the country has so greatly disturbed nesting conditions, particularly in relation to the ducks and geese, as to result in alarmingly small numbers of young having been raised, in view of which fact an enforced but temporary cessation of shooting of waterfowl has been suggested, in the hope of increasing their numbers to a more encouraging total; therefore be it

"RESOLVED, That the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club is heartily in sympathy with the idea of the hunting season for waterfowl being declared closed for the year 1931-32, in order to lessen the danger of their practical elimination, and that a copy of this resolution be at once forwarded to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C."

Mr. T. T. McCabe followed Dr. Evermann's comment on the need for such action with a statement of seasonal conditions in the prairie districts of British Columbia, as reported to him personally by Mr. J. A. Munro of Okanagan Landing. Mr. Munro has just returned from an inspection trip over the areas in his region where waterfowl usually breed in great numbers. He stated that he had found many of the lake beds dry, as well as most places usually marshy. Because of these unprecedentedly unfavorable conditions many waterfowl had raised no young this year. Dr. Evermann's motion was duly seconded and unanimously carried.

Reports from the field were as follows: Gordon Bolander, two additions to the list of summer birds of Mosswood Park, an immature Hermit Warbler and a Slender-billed Nuthatch, seen on July 24; Mrs. Allen, Slender-billed Nuthatches in Strawberry Canyon before mid-August and Townsend Warblers this day; Miss Stedman, the presence at her feeding table of two Titmouses and the continued attendance of a crippled Song Sparrow through the seventh year; Mr. Grinnell, description of a most novel nesting of Canyon Wren as observed by Mrs. Lila Lofberg and fully reported upon elsewhere; the secretary, the puncturing of the blossom tubes of morning-glories by

an Anna Hummer, as watched daily through the summer by Mrs. C. S. Newhall; Mr. Cain, birds seen on a vacation trip to southern Alaska, of especial interest being a colony of Purple Martins at Seattle and Ravens hazing a young Bald Eagle at Sitka. Dr. Evermann reported that two Red-tailed Hawks had been received at the California Academy of Sciences from a correspondent who stated that they had been seizing quail. Stomach contents proved to be sperophiles only.

Dr. Alden H. Miller was the speaker of the evening and told engagingly of "A Summer's Quest for Juncos." In company with Mrs. Miller he spent the time between May 15 and August 1 visiting suitable areas in several western states, in an endeavor to learn the breeding ranges of several forms of this systematically elusive bird.

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

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION

AUGUST.—The regular meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Southern Division, was held at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, Tuesday, August 25, 1931, at 8 p. m. President J. R. Pemberton presided and about thirty members and friends were present. The minutes of the July meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved, the minutes of the July meeting of the Northern Division were read.

One application for membership was read: Dr. Josselyn Van Tyne, Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan, proposed by J. Eugene Law.

There being no business to come before the meeting, the program of the evening was presented by Mr. and Mrs. James A. Calder. After a brief résumé of their four years' experience with nesting Marsh Hawks, a number of slides were given, showing the locality, the nests and eggs, the young as they developed from week to week, and the adults in flight as they sought to protect the nest. This series of slides was greatly enjoyed by everyone, and after some comments and questions, the meeting was adjourned to allow a closer examination of a number of enlargements of some of the pictures and of a set of quite heavily spotted eggs that was on exhibit.—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, *Secretary*.