

Natural Selection, but offers no alternative explanations in their stead. If we are to discard these theories, as Mr. McAtee would have us do, we should appreciate having him give us substitutes as good or better than the ones discarded.—WILLIAM HENRY BURT.

### MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

#### NORTHERN DIVISION

**MARCH.**—The March meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, March 24, 1932, at 8:00 p. m. in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Linsdale in the chair and about fifty members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for February were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for February were read. Mervyn Annis Ortez, 2127 Oregon St., Berkeley, was proposed for membership by Joseph S. Dixon; and Mrs. Elizabeth H. Price, 2243 College Ave., Berkeley, by E. L. Sumner through the Western Bird-banding Association.

Dr. Linsdale announced the appointment of the Committee on Conservation authorized by action of the January meeting, the personnel being Brighton C. Cain, Alden H. Miller, and W. I. Follett, chairman. Dr. and Mrs. Lynds Jones of Oberlin, Ohio, were the Club's guests for the evening.

Miss Rinehart reported a Mockingbird in full song at the California Nursery, Niles, on March 23, and a flock of Evening Grosbeaks seen at Kentfield, Marin County, on March 7. Mr. Grinnell asked whether anyone could contribute an observation which would make it possible to add the Evening Grosbeak to the list of Campus birds. Alden Miller replied that in October, 1931, he saw two of these birds on the University grounds near the Life Sciences Building. Mrs. Mead told of seeing about fifty Swans, in three flocks, from the railway train between Chico and Marysville on February 22. Miss Sherman reported a Northern Flicker at her feeding table in Oakland. Mr. Grinnell told of noting a Warbling Vireo in Faculty Glade on March 22. Mrs. Bracelin reported seeing a Saw-whet Owl near the Point Bonita target station, and a flock of about one hundred Cliff Swallows on a barn near the San Rafael ferry.

Mr. Raymond M. Gilmore then gave a most interesting, illustrated talk upon his summer cruise of the west coast of Alaska aboard the coast guard cutter "Northland." His trip occupied the period from May 5 to November 15, so he became familiar with many species of northern birds, whose habits he described entertainingly. Incidentally, he told also something of the habits of the Eskimo.

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

**APRIL.**—The April meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, April 28, 1932, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Linsdale in the chair and about sixty members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for March were read and approved. The name of Paul Lester Errington, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, was proposed for membership by J. Grinnell.

At the request of the Chairman, Mr. Alden Miller reported upon the Annual meeting of the Club, held in Los Angeles, April 22 and 23. Mr. E. L. Sumner told of banding a Forbush Sparrow in Strawberry Cañon on the morning of April 28. Mrs. Bracelin announced that Mr. Joseph Mailliard had reported a Cardinal as seen by Mr. Tose in Golden Gate Park on April 27. Mr. Bunker requested an explanation as to why a Golden-crowned Sparrow in his garden should give the "oh-dear-me" call when about to spar with a Nuttall Sparrow, but no explanation was forthcoming. Alden Miller stated that on April 17 his wife found a Lutescent Warbler's nest in Strawberry Cañon, containing five eggs. Mrs. Kelly told of seeing a Mallard's nest in a eucalyptus tree in Golden Gate Park. The nest was discovered in a crotch of the tree ten or twelve feet above the ground, and at the time of the discovery, April 23, the head of the female was seen over the nest rim.

Following the discussion of field notes, Dr. Carl P. Russell of the National Park Service gave a talk upon "The Yellowstone Museum Program." This exposition of the admirable work being done by the Park Service for the benefit of the thousands of summer visitors was illustrated with an excellent series of slides.

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

## SOUTHERN DIVISION

MARCH. — The March meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held Tuesday, March 29, 1932, at 8 p. m., in the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, with President Michener in the chair, and about twenty-five members and guests present. Minutes of the Southern Division were read and approved. Minutes of the Northern Division were read.

Attention of the meeting was called to the announcement of the death of Mr. G. Frean Morcom. It was moved that a committee be appointed to draw up resolutions of sympathy to be placed in the minutes and a copy forwarded to the family. The motion was duly seconded and unanimously passed by a rising vote. President Michener appointed Mr. Howard Robertson, Mr. Will Judson, and Mr. W. L. Chambers as the committee. It was moved, seconded, and passed that a copy of the resolution be forwarded to the secretary.

President Michener called the attention of the Club to an open letter concerning its participation in educational and legislative action for the protection of hawks and owls. It was suggested that the Cooper Club, a scientific organization, should not be drawn into controversial activities, although the entrance of members of the organization as individuals might be advocated.

It was moved by Mr. Robertson, and duly seconded, that the April meeting of the Southern Division be vacated and the members join the activities of the annual meeting. Motion passed. The membership of the local committee for the annual meeting was again announced: Mr. W. L. Chambers, ways and means; Mr. Harry Harris, arrangements; Mr. George Willett, meeting place.

Mr. Willett announced the Say Phoebe nesting, with young birds in the nest, Horned Larks with fresh eggs, and the Myrtle Warbler in San Diego in spring plumage. He also reported that the tern islands in Salton Sea, Imperial County, are private holdings and that any evident great anxiety to incorporate these areas in the proposed reservation might make their price prohibitive; he mentioned the fact that a shelter has been erected on the first of the islands. From all information it appears exceedingly doubtful that the islands will ever be included in the proposed reservation. A rise of water level in the lake has been rumored, but

no evidences of such a rise were anywhere observable. Mr. Willett also reported that no terns were sighted, but that Snowy Egrets were numerous, in fact more were seen at one time than ever before in his life, thirty to forty having been observed in one little arm of the sea with a possibility of a breeding colony at the southern end. Buffle-head, Red-head, Mallard and Pintail were present, as was also a large raft of White Pelicans and some cormorants. It was suggested that a study of spring and fall migrations and of breeding seasons in this locality would be productive of much valuable data, and that few other areas in California offer so many opportunities for research.

Mr. van Rossem reported having spent a week in the tule marshes at the southern end of Salton Sea in a search for Clapper Rails. They were heard but none was seen. Tule Wrens were nesting in great numbers; fifty occupied nests and a great many dummy nests were found and a visitor was never out of sight of singing males. Thousands of Cinnamon Teal were present, many in pairs, making up about 90 per cent of the ducks. A few Shovellers and Baldpates were present, and about forty to fifty Egrets. Very little shooting was going on, although there have been persistent rumors to the contrary. A few shots were heard, but these were probably fired by farmers driving ducks out of their fields. Mr. Chambers described a visit to the same region in search of Egrets, and mentioned the great size of the tules, the very deep mud, and the oppressive heat as obstacles to a thorough knowledge of the tule marsh areas.

Mr. Willett reported some of the difficulties encountered in revising his list of the birds of southern California. Many once common species are now rare, and some, formerly thought to be rare, are now apparently more numerous, as for instance the Sabine Gull which is now known to be a common migrant. These changes should be noted in the revised list. He also mentioned other changes such as the former breeding areas of grebes in certain sections which subsequently have been drained. It was suggested that the publishing of notes in the *Condor* would be of great help in bringing information down to date, and failing that, the sending to Mr. Willett of notes not intended for publication. An especial need was indicated in the extensions of known range, dates of breeding, migration, etc. Presi-

dent Michener expressed the hope for publication of the list in about two years if possible, and suggested that members look up their old notes as a source of valuable, unpublished information.

Mr. Miller reported seeing two flocks of egrets, Snowy and one American Egret. Mr. Michener announced that on March 13 he heard his first oriole of the season, and that young Song Sparrows were out of the nest. Mr. Appleton announced a return on a banded Red-tail at Triunfo, February, 1932. The bird was banded in April, 1929. Mr. Pemberton reported that Buena Vista and Mystic or San Jacinto lakes were dry in spite of the heavy rains.

Mrs. Law reported having heard the Spotted Owl in Altadena, and also a Barn Owl, a rather unusual occurrence in that vicinity. Mr. van Rossem reported having heard the Spotted Owl on a previous occasion in the same locality. Mr. Howard Robertson raised the question as to whether Bush-tits ever leave the foothills and wander into more open country, mentioning an article stating that they do not. In the resulting discussion it was stated that they were present in the willow groves and on the old Normal School campus in Los Angeles. Mr. Robertson also mentioned the presence of a Sparrow Hawk on Eighth Street, Los Angeles. It was always seen in the morning flying along a rather regular route, and seemed to do most of its hunting on the ledges of the May Company store. Although no English Sparrows seemed to be caught, its presence invariably stirred them to action, sometimes resulting in their pursuit of the hawk. Mr. Little mentioned the presence of Band-tailed Pigeons in the eucalyptus trees in South Pasadena, stating that they had appeared there during the past two years.

Adjourned.—R. B. COWLES, *Secretary*.

#### SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING

The Seventh Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held in Los Angeles, California, Friday and Saturday, April 22 and 23, 1932. The scientific sessions were held at the Los Angeles Museum in Olympic Park. Registration of members and visitors began at 9 a. m. At 10 a. m. the session was opened by Harold Michener, President of the Southern Division, who invited Dr. W. A. Bryan, Director of the Los Angeles Museum, to greet the assemblage. Director Bryan called attention to the close relationship

between the Club and the Museum, and to the important part which the former played in the development of the latter. He also described briefly the efforts of the Museum to establish at Rancho La Brea an outdoor Pleistocene museum exhibition. Loye Miller, President of the Board of Governors, acknowledged Dr. Bryan's greeting.

A telegram from Stanley G. Jewett, extending wishes for the success of the meeting was read.

About fifty persons were present at the sessions on Friday morning, afternoon and evening, about sixty at each of the scientific sessions on Saturday, and approximately seventy-five at the evening dinner.

The scientific program opened with a paper by J. Grinnell, on "The first collector of birds in California—Menzies." Archibald Menzies was naturalist with Vancouver on the "Discovery" which visited the California coast in 1792 and 1793, touching at San Francisco, Point Trinidad, Tomales Bay, Monterey, Santa Barbara and San Diego. A total of ninety-six days was spent here and numerous informative observations on the bird life were recorded in his diary. The type specimens of California Condor and California Quail, the former of which is still extant in the British Museum, were taken by Menzies.

L. M. Huey discussed "Variation in nest building by the California Brown Towhee" and exhibited two contrasting examples differing in structure and bulk. The speaker concluded that the differences experienced daily by the adult birds in two diverse environments were responsible for the differences in the nests exhibited.

G. Willett spoke on "Logic in systematics," commenting on the instability in formal check-lists and certain of the seemingly unwarranted changes in generic allocation. He mentioned also the various described and undescribed forms in many groups and the question was raised as to whether all forms need to be named.

L. Miller described "A new fossil bird horizon in California," in the Monterey Temblor Miocene at San Pedro breakwater. *Puffinus diatomicus*, discovered at Lompoc, also occurs at San Pedro. It is a species similar to the present Black-vented Shearwater in size, and not distinguished by any adaptive characters from its present-day relative.

Hildegard Howard reported "The discovery of a 'new' cormorant near Santa