

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the list in about two years if possible, and suggested that members look up their old notes as a source of valuable, unpublished information.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

Barbara," from the Veronica Springs quarry. The new species is similar to several existing cormorants but differs in various characters from all of them.

A. H. Miller described "Structural adaptations in the Hawaiian Goose" (*Nesochen*) which is now, as a species, nearly extinct in the wild but exists in small numbers in semi-captivity about human habitations. Comparisons were made with the Cackling Goose and Black Brant. The Hawaiian Goose lived originally on barren lava flows at about 5,000 feet altitude, going lower to breed and molt between September and February. It can climb and fly readily but does not swim. The musculature of the leg shows differences affording greater freedom of movement in the foot.

"The fossil storks of California" were described by L. Miller. These are relatively scarce in the LaBrea collections. Relics have been found in the LaBrea, McKittrick and Carpinteria deposits, and all are referred to one variable Pleistocene species, *Ciconia maltha*.

J. M. Linsdale discussed "Frequency of occurrence of birds in Yosemite Valley, California," using as data a series of monthly reports on birds observed by Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Michael during the past 12 years. The speaker's thesis was that frequency of observation is a criterion of value in determining the relative numbers of species.

In the evening Albert Colburn showed motion pictures of wild life of the Galapagos Islands, featuring the last field activities of the late O. W. Howard. The expedition was conducted to the islands by Mr. Willits J. Hole on his yacht "Samona" during the winter of 1928. Flightless cormorants and penguins were shown.

At the session on Saturday morning, George Willett presided. "Relations between man and birds in California" were discussed by T. I. Storer. The effect of settlements, of use of game species for food and sport, the effect of man-made changes in environment as to plant cover and agricultural plantings, and the influence of climatic pulsations were discussed. The conclusion was drawn that much area in California still retains its bird life in a relatively unmodified condition.

W. M. Pierce exhibited in motion pictures "Some Golden Eagle studies" on the Mohave Desert in California. The food included rabbits and chuckwallas to a large degree.

C. G. Abbott presented the "Closing history of the Guadalupe Caracara with a list of the known skins." Thirty-four skins of this extinct species have been located in various museums. Of these three are in the San Diego Museum of Natural History and most of the others are in collections in the eastern United States.

S. S. Stansell showed "Some birds of Kern County, California," in motion pictures and lantern slides.

"Classification of botanical areas as a basis for the study of birds in Natal, South Africa," by R. B. Cowles, afforded an interesting picture of bird habitats and the criteria used in determining these.

"A summary of the birds of Tiburon Island" by A. J. van Rossem, included the findings of earlier collectors and the results of a recent expedition by the speaker. Of the eighty-two species recorded from the island, which is in the Gulf of California, six are endemic and affinities are indicated with the fauna of the Colorado Desert.

C. G. Abbott presided at the afternoon session, which began with "Molt studies of the Phainopepla," by A. H. Miller. All spring-grown body feathers of male first-year birds are black. Birds in the coastal area show more immature brown than those of the Colorado Desert. Much variation is seen in the degree of replacement of flight feathers, especially during the first year of life. The paper gave a rational interpretation for the degree of difference observed in various birds of immature status. The relation between gonad secretions and immaturity of plumage was suggested.

R. C. Ross in "Preliminary remarks on post-breeding vertical migration in some Sierran birds," described studies at Huntington Lake in Fresno County, California. His material included various species of strictly Upper Sonoran status at nesting time, and also comment on local movement among Blue-fronted Jays which concentrate in high-zone willow thickets during August. The greatest population of birds was noted in July.

J. L. Partin presented "A year's record of House Finch weights," including 1000 weights of 800 individuals trapped and weighed in Los Angeles County. From April to July females are heavier than males; from July to November the sexes are of equal weight, and relatively light, while from December to February all birds in Los Angeles are heavier than those from Pasadena!

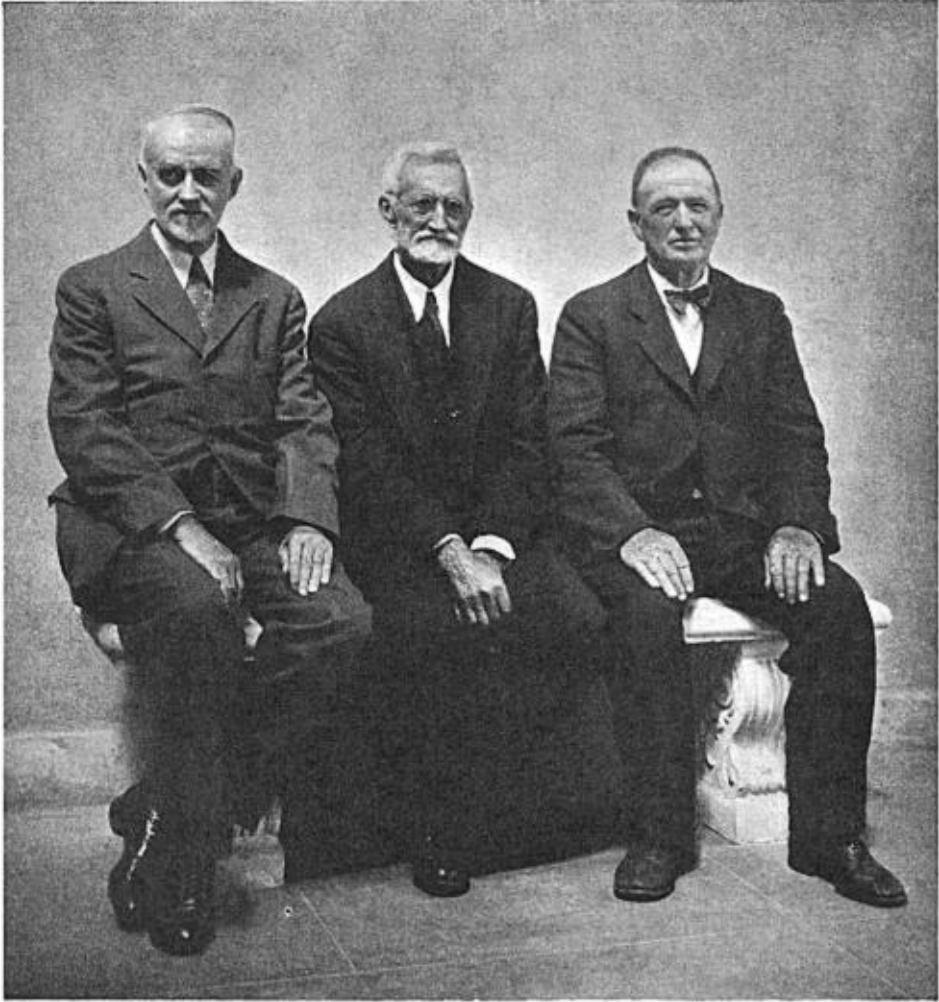


Fig. 22. ALFRED W. ANTHONY, FRANK STEPHENS, AND CLARK P. STREATOR, IN ATTENDANCE UPON THE SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB AT LOS ANGELES, APRIL 22 AND 23, 1932.

Photo by Dr. John A. Comstock, of the Los Angeles Museum.

In connection with numerous studies carried on by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Michener, one paper presented "Some inferences from seven years' banding records." The growth of plant cover and increase of leafy debris on the grounds of their residence raised notably the population of San Diego Towhees. Of 205 Arizona Hooded Orioles, banded in seven years, only five birds returned in successive years, abutilon blossoms proving a special attraction. A Troupial was captured on June 16, 1928. A second paper, on "Colors induced in male House Finches by repeated

feather removals," presented results from repeated plucking of the rump feathers of a male California Linnet. In three years, nineteen growths of feathers on this bird were matched with Ridgway's "Standards"; a program of change from red to greyish or brownish olive was observed.

J. McB. Robertson described "An unusual nesting site of the Black-chinned Hummingbird," which was on a loop of rope in a garage.

On Saturday evening, approximately seventy-five members and guests assembled at the Elite Tea Room, 7th and Alvarado

Streets, Los Angeles, for dinner. Loye Miller performed the duties of toastmaster in his usual inimitable style and called on various persons.

Joseph Grinnell discussed the California State bird list and indicated some of the problems involved in revising such a list. George Willett spoke briefly. The veteran naturalist, Frank Stephens, gave a vivid account of personal experiences during his youth with the now extinct Passenger Pigeon in Michigan and Illinois. Mrs. Lila Lofberg, who had traveled thirty-one miles over snow from Florence Lake in the high Sierra to attend the meeting, described experiences with her birds, and also with three coyotes which have been about her residence this winter. C. G. Abbott described the new building of the San Diego Society of Natural History, for which Harlan Edwards is the Superintendent of Construction. L. B. Bishop responded briefly, and W. L. Chambers told of the early history of bird clubs in southern California. Howard Robertson followed with comments on predecessors of the Cooper Club, and then described the activities of himself and W. M. Bowen, which led to the establishment of the Los Angeles Museum. His talk brought out again the intimate relation between the history of the Museum and that of the Club. W. M. Pierce spoke briefly, as did the Secretary. Toastmaster Miller closed the evening with an appeal to members to realize that the changing status of things regarding birds is but a part of the order of change in the world generally.—TRACY I. STORER, *Secretary*.

GOVERNORS' MEETING

The Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at Hollywood, California, on April 24, 1932. The Board was entertained at breakfast at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. Guy C. Rich, 1820 El Cerrito Place, by Mrs. Rich and her family. The business session convened at 10 a. m. with President L. Miller in the chair, and the following members present: Mrs. H. W. Grinnell, Messrs. J. S. Appleton, L. B. Bishop, W. L. Chambers, R. B. Cowles, J. Grinnell, Harry Harris, J. M. Linsdale, Harold Michener, W. M. Pierce, G. C. Rich, Howard Robertson, J. McB. Robertson, T. I. Storer, and George Willett. The following proxies were at hand: Mrs. Amelia S. Allen, Messrs. W. K.

Fisher, Joseph Mailliard and J. G. Tyler by J. Grinnell; G. M. Wright by L. Miller; H. C. Bryant, H. W. Carriger, Joseph Dixon, C. B. Lastreto, W. H. Osgood and Curtis Wright by T. I. Storer. The following were present as visitors by invitation: Mrs. W. L. Chambers, Messrs. C. G. Abbott, Luther Little, A. H. Miller and A. J. van Rossem.

Minutes of the Tenth Annual Meeting were read and approved.

Joseph Grinnell rendered a verbal report of editorial activities.

Report of the special committee appointed at the Tenth Meeting to audit the Business Manager's Report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 1930, had been transmitted under date of March 25, 1932, by Chairman C. B. Lastreto. The report was read, and, upon motion by Howard Robertson, seconded by G. C. Rich, received and placed on file and the committee discharged. Recommendations of the Special Auditing Committee were next discussed and the following motions put and carried: (1) That at least one member of future auditing committees be selected from the territory of the Southern Division (Storer, Harris); (2) that an auditing committee be appointed by the President of the Board, to audit the reports for 1931 and for 1932 (Howard Robertson, Bishop); (3) that the recommendation to transfer supervision of the investments of the Club to a trust organization be not followed (Pierce, Harris). President Miller appointed as a committee to conduct the 1931 and 1932 audits, Howard Robertson, Chairman; Harry Harris and J. S. Cooper.

Report of the Business Managers for 1931 was offered and commented upon by J. McB. Robertson. On motion by Harold Michener, seconded by G. C. Rich, the report for 1931 was received and placed on file. W. L. Chambers gave an informal statistical and financial report on the publication of the various Pacific Coast Avifaunas. General discussion followed.

The Secretary suggested that henceforth a synopsis of the Business Managers' report could be circulated with the call for the Annual Meeting of the Board.

Howard Robertson discussed the work of the committee appointed earlier to consider incorporation under the laws of California. Upon motion by G. C. Rich, seconded by W. L. Chambers, the Board voted to discharge the old incorporation committee, with thanks for service rendered,