

kindred subjects includes the San Diego Society of Natural History, the Zoological Society of San Diego, the San Diego Museum, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and the Egypt Exploration Society. She financed the publication of Dawson's large work on "The Birds of California," Johnson and Snook's "Seashore Animals of the Pacific Coast," and a number of other natural history books. She was responsible for the permanent preservation of an extensive stand of the unique Torrey Pine, and was ever keenly interested in matters of conservation, creation of parks, and the safeguarding of natural resources.

To the San Diego Society of Natural History she was a "patron saint." Her large donations for specific objects and her generous monthly contributions for operations made possible the activities of this organization and its public museum on their present scale. She lived to see its permanent building, to which she was the largest subscriber, well under way toward completion, and she bequeathed \$50,000 to the Society in her will.

Many efforts were made to express public gratitude to Miss Scripps. Degrees were given to her, tablets installed in her honor. But the best tribute will not be that of any group; it will be perennial.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

JULY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, July 28, 1932, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Linsdale presiding and about sixty-five members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for June were read, and approved with a change suggested by Dr. Loye Miller. Minutes of the Southern Division were read. Mr. Robert Poultney, Arcata, California, was proposed for membership by Mr. E. L. Sumner, Sr., and Mr. Edgar J. Parker, 321 North Fifth Street, Corvallis, Oregon, by Mr. T. T. McCabe, both through the Western Bird-banding Association.

The Chair brought before the meeting the names of Mr. Albert M. Ingersoll and Mr. A. W. Anthony, both of San Diego, who had been voted upon favorably by the

Southern Division for Honorary Membership and this action was confirmed on the part of the Northern Division by unanimous election.

Mr. C. A. Bryant reported that on July 3, at Moss Landing, he saw Long-billed Dowitchers, Godwits, Willets, Hudsonian and Long-billed curlews, Red-backed Sandpipers, Black-bellied Plovers, Snowy Plovers with nests, and Least, Forster, and Caspian terns. Off the coast were large numbers of Shearwaters. On July 4, on a small island off Point Lobos, he found seventy-five nests of the Brown Pelican in a colony of these birds estimated at three thousand. Four Black Swifts, and Black Oystercatchers with half grown young, were also seen. Mrs. Kelly reported seeing Pigeon Guillemots feeding young along the Santa Cruz Cliff Drive on June 30, and about five hundred Willets, and smaller numbers of sandpipers, Godwits, Dowitchers, Black-bellied and Semipalmated plovers, and Hudsonian Curlew near the San Francisco Bay Bridge. Mrs. Mead told of seeing sandpipers and Northern Phalaropes near the Key Route pier on July 25.

The evening's program was provided by Dr. Loye Miller, who spoke upon "Fossil Birds". He explained the basis of his interest in this subject, and showed that through the study of bird fossils much has been learned as to the nature of past plant and animal communities and the climatic conditions under which they lived, as also something as to the possible evolution of bird species and subspecies. In conclusion, he brought out the fact that California has contributed richly to this subject, since twenty widely distributed localities have yielded some 150,000 specimens within the thirty years which have followed the finding of a fossil Auk by Lucas.

A brief discussion followed. Adjourned.—MARY M. ERICKSON, *Secretary pro tem.*

AUGUST.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, August 25, 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 July were read and approved.

Mr. Alden H. Miller read a communication from Mr. John R. Brock of Oakland, reporting upon the homing instincts of certain wild birds, caged by himself

and released at points distant from the places of capture. Field notes of interest were offered by Miss Sherman, Mr. Dexter, Mr. Cain, and Miss Rinehart.

The death of Ralph Hoffmann, Director of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and author of "Birds of the Pacific States", was brought to the attention of the meeting. President Linsdale appointed Miss Rinehart, Mr. Cain, and Mr. Alden H. Miller, Chairman, as a committee to draw up appropriate resolutions.

Miss Mary M. Erickson gave the paper of the evening, a most interesting report upon her studies of the distribution and habits of the Wren-tit in Strawberry Cañon, on the University Campus. Twelve or thirteen acres of brushland were included in the area and successive trapping stations maintained until a hundred had been used. During the breeding season, behavior of mated pairs was observed and twenty home territories mapped out. In many of these areas nest-building was watched and the rearing of the young observed. Nest-building, Miss Erickson found, begins with the weaving of a cob-web frame. First nest-building occupied from seven to ten days, but if the first nest were abandoned for any reason the later nest was usually built more rapidly. Mention was made of the fact that a Wren-tit trapped and banded by Mr. E. D. Clabaugh in Strawberry Cañon was retrapped in the same general locality seven and one-half years later by Mr. E. L. Sumner, Sr.

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

SOUTHERN DIVISION

JULY.—The July meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held Tuesday, July 26, 1932, at 8 p. m., in the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, with President Michener in the chair and twenty-six members and guests present. Minutes of the Southern Division were read and approved. Minutes of the Northern Division were read.

The death of Mr. Ralph Hoffmann while on San Miguel Island, July 22, was announced. Mr. John McB. Robertson and Walter I. Allen were appointed to formulate a resolution, one copy to be sent to Mrs. Hoffmann, another to be placed with the minutes. The resolution was read by Mr. John McB. Robertson and it was

moved and seconded that the resolution be adopted. Adoption of the resolution was by unanimous vote.

President Michener introduced the speaker of the evening, Dr. Walter P. Taylor, who favored the meeting with an exceedingly interesting and valuable talk on the work which is being carried forward relative to a complete study of the birds of Washington. Dr. Taylor and Dr. Shaw have undertaken the task of bringing the 1926 manuscript on the birds of Washington up to date, and have been continuing some of the work through the courtesy of the California Institute of Technology. At present there are approximately 1000 pages of the manuscript.

A brief history of Washington ornithology was given, with note of the work of various men who have been active in the past and those who are now contributing to the fund of available information. A particularly interesting feature of the historical sketch was the list of United States Biological Survey men, including as it does some of the best known workers in ornithology. In reply to a question pertaining to the possible publication of the paper, it was stated that at present there is little hope for its appearance, due to the fact that the ax of Government economy first strikes scientific research.

Mr. John McB. Robertson reported his observations on the extension of the nesting range of Barn Swallows, and Mr. Willett discussed the nesting preference of the Barn Swallow, calling attention to the fact that in southern California at least they are more frequently found nesting in caves and under bridges than around barns. Mr. Reis reported the finding of a Barn Swallow's nest in a hole in a pine tree and stated that there was scarcely any indication of the usual mud structure. Mr. Clary reported that during June and early July, a Nuthatch, Violet-green Swallow, and a Bluebird were found nesting in one dead pine tree near Idyllwild. He also reported the banding of a Pine Siskin in Coachella Valley, July 13. Fifteen Wilson Phalaropes were reported as having been seen near Bolsa Chica on the morning of July 26. The Texas Nighthawk was reported from Pasadena for July 25, the date a repetition of its occurrence last year.

A number of notes on the spread of the Cowbird were brought to the attention of

the meeting and a discussion of the hosts and host reactions elicited much interesting information. Mr. Willett discussed the extension of the Cowbird range in the vicinity of Los Angeles, stating that 25 years ago it was rare. The first specimen taken in Los Angeles was probably collected by J. Eugene Law, but the eggs had already been found in Los Angeles County even though the bird itself was almost unknown. It was first reported as common on the Pacific slope from near Colton and San Bernardino where the eggs were common. Mr. J. McB. Robertson reported that the eggs have recently been found near Gilroy although the adults have not as yet been seen.

Mr. Pemberton described his search for nesting Piñon Jays near Idyllwild. Last year several nests and eggs were seen, while this year only one nest was found. The nest contained 2 eggs and 3 young. It was remarked that although the Piñon Jay has a marked preference for the piñon pine, the nests were found only in yellow pines. There seemed to be two distinct nesting sites, the most common type being in the tops of small, thirty to forty foot, pines; the second and less popular location is in the extreme ends of large limbs of the very big pines. From the numbers of nesting birds which were present in the one area it seemed probable that most of the Piñon Jays of the San Jacinto area nest near Idyllwild. Another nesting site was reported from the vicinity of Baldwin Lake. While watching the Piñon Jays a mature Golden Eagle was seen to swoop into a flock and capture a bird. The rest of the flock retaliated with such vigor as to force the eagle to drop its victim.

Mrs. Law reported a singing female Black-headed Grosbeak and described the song as quite unlike that of the male, being rather soft and sweet. It was suggested that the bird might have been a one-year-old male, but the identification seemed quite certain. Mrs. Clary discussed the seasonal activities of young and adults of the Arkansas Kingbirds and Hooded Orioles, and reported many interesting observations that have been made in the course of the past few years. Mr. John McB. Robertson called attention to Farley's "Birds of the Battle River Region, Central Alberta, Canada," published by the Institute of Applied Arts Ltd., Edmonton. Mr. Michener reported enthusiastically on the two volumes of Roberts' "Birds of Minnesota," published by the University of Minnesota Press.

Adjourned.—R. B. COWLES, *Secretary*.

THE QUEBEC MEETING OF THE A. O. U.

The fiftieth stated meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union was opened at Laval University, Quebec, Canada, at 10:00 a. m., Tuesday, October 18, 1932. Cordial addresses of welcome were made by Monseigneur Camille Roy, Rector of the venerable University, his Honor Col. Henri Lavigueur, Mayor of the City of Quebec, and Mr. Adrien Falardeau, President of the Provancher Society of Natural History of Canada and chairman of the local committee of arrangements. Responses were made on behalf of the Union by Dr. Harrison Lewis and by Dr. T. S. Palmer. The Secretary then called the roll of Fellows and Members, and announced, as follows, the results of the elections held at Monday evening's general business session: President, J. H. Fleming; Vice-presidents, A. C. Bent and H. Friedmann; Secretary, T. S. Palmer; Treasurer, W. L. McAtee; new member of the Council, A. A. Allen; Fellow, Hoyes Lloyd; Members, Thomas D. Burleigh, Mary M. Davidson, Laurence M. Huey, S. C. Kendeigh and Jesse M. Shaver.

It is impossible in the brief space available, for the present reporter to do more than to try to reflect onto the printed page a very few of the highlights which will long remain in the memories of those who attended this second A. O. U. meeting ever held on Canadian soil. First of all should come an indication of our gratitude to our hosts of the Province of Quebec whose thoughtful care for our entertainment and comfort added immeasurably to the pleasures of the week. For the charming and fluent way in which, at the Annual Dinner, he expressed this gratitude to our hosts in the language of their own province we were indebted to James P. Chapin of the American Museum of Natural History.

Tuesday was given over to the presentation of papers treating of many phases of more or less technical ornithology. On Tuesday evening the special memorial session was held. Dr. Witmer Stone read the memorial appreciation of Charles W. Richmond, James L. Peters that of Outram Bangs, and Harry C. Oberholser that of Robert Ridgway. Into each of these papers was infused a quality which made the listener realize what a benediction has lain in comradeship with and study under these three leaders now gone. The evening closed with the showing of Alfred M. Bailey's fine series of motion pictures of "Birds of the Western Prairies".

Wednesday's sessions were three in number. Two of these were held simultaneously, one given in the French language, one in English. Of the six papers presented at the French session, Dr. Déry's contribution, "Premières Mentions et Descriptions originales de quelques