

to be remembered.

Too much credit cannot be given to the English Committee that planned the meetings, and special praise must be accorded the fine work of Secretary Jourdain and Mr. B. W. Tucker. Oxford was an excellent meeting place. President Stresemann's conduct of the meetings was admirable; his manner of presiding and his scientific leadership were ideal.—A.H.M.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

MAY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at 8:00 p. m., Thursday, May 24, 1934, in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Pickwell in the Chair and about seventy members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division's April meeting were read and approved, and minutes of the Southern Division's April meeting were read.

Applications for membership were: Mr. Edward Avery McIlhenny, Avery Island, Louisiana, by Joseph Mailliard, and Miss Hope M. Gladding, 58 Tamalpais Road, Berkeley, California, by E. L. Sumner through the Western Bird-banding Association. A United States government press communication announcing the death of Dr. Edward W. Nelson and giving an account of his life and of his scientific career was read by the Secretary.

Mr. E. L. Sumner reported a second nest built by the Richmond Mockingbirds, containing three young, banded May 23; Mr. Dexter, Mrs. Bracelin and Miss Sanford gave accounts of local robins' nests; Mr. McClintock told of the finding of Black-chinned Sparrows on Las Trampas Ridge and Mr. Tonkin of a nesting colony of American Egrets near the Pacific Highway. Migrating Tanagers were noted by Mr. Pickwell at Alum Rock Canyon on May 18 and by Miss Wythe in Berkeley on May 20. Miss Rinehart saw the Olive-sided Flycatcher on May 2 and young Chipping Sparrows in the nest on May 15.

Mr. Cain told of the efforts of a young scout to attract birds to a back yard that was completely paved. Several Christmas trees furnished cover, water was provided, nesting boxes put up and he was rewarded by the nesting of a pair of bluebirds. Gordon Bolander reported the presence

of seven Least Terns at Dumbarton Bridge on May 20, and Mrs. Stephens found Yellow-billed Magpies in Tesla Canyon on April 29. Prof. Morley read extracts from a diary written in 1830 telling of the destruction of migrating Passenger Pigeons—830 dozen were taken in a season and sold for 25 cents to \$1.00 per dozen. Later, in 1870, they were still so plentiful that they were caught in nets and killed by crushing the skull with the thumb or biting into it with the eye-teeth.

The third and last contest program consisted of two talks: One by Robert Taylor on "Back-yard Birding"; the other by Miss Alice S. Mulford on the "Ecology of the Brewer Blackbird on the University Campus". These were followed by interesting comments and discussion, after which the meeting adjourned.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Secretary pro-tem*.

JUNE.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at 8:00 p. m., Thursday, June 28, 1934, in the Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with Mr. Grinnell in the Chair and forty members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for May were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division and of the Stanford Chapter for May were read.

Applications for membership were: Miss Vivian Giles, 909 Clay St., Ukiah, Calif., proposed by J. Grinnell, and Mrs. J. R. Winblad, 575 Pierce St., San Francisco, Calif., proposed by Mr. E. L. Sumner, through the Western Bird-banding Association. Mrs. James T. Allen, reporting for the Contest Committee, announced that the award to a junior speaker would be given to Mr. Cranson L. Hopkins for his talk entitled "Random Observations on Barn Owls", and the senior award to Mrs. Junea W. Kelly, who spoke on "Rock Decay and its Ornithological Significance". The awards are to consist of books on birds and are to be given to the recipients at the September meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Pease, duly seconded and unanimously adopted, that the Northern Division record its appreciation of the work of the Contest Committee in ably planning and carrying out a series of programs so well worth while.

The program of the evening was the general reporting of "Field Notes", and the Chairman called first for observations on Mockingbirds in the East Bay region. Observations of five members confirmed

the fact that Mockingbirds are established and increasing in this area. Mr. Dexter reported upon a large flock of Horned Larks noted at about 1300 feet elevation in the Livermore Hills on June 8; Miss Pringle upon the presence of many nesting Allen Hummingbirds in Golden Gate Park and the relative scarcity there of Anna Hummingbirds; Mrs. Allen upon the presence of a young Red-breasted Nuthatch in her neighborhood and on seeing Nuttall Woodpeckers in Strawberry Canyon; Miss Josephine Smith upon the apparent fearlessness of a Brown Towhee and a Santa Cruz Song Sparrow which fairly asked for food on five successive days from persons lunching on the steps of California Hall; Miss Erickson on hearing a Crow near the head of Dwight Way, these birds being very rarely noted in Berkeley of late years, although, as recalled by the Chairman, Walter E. Bryant of Oakland collected Crows' eggs where the Center Street entrance to the University Campus now is, back in the '80's. Mr. Compton made interesting observations on birds seen in Nevada between April 29 and May 22. Dr. Taylor stated that he had seen a Brown Towhee stop to strike at its reflection in a window while carrying food, and Dr. Ritter added that he had also observed a similar action.

The evening closed with a review by the Chairman of the second volume of Peters' "Birds of the World". The reviewer commended the author's rulings toward the recognition of fewer genera.

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

STANFORD CHAPTER

MARCH.—The third regular meeting of the Stanford Chapter, Northern Division of Cooper Ornithological Club, was called to order by President Willis Rich at 8 o'clock, Thursday, March 1, in Room 430, Jordan Hall, Stanford University. The minutes were approved as read. Mrs. Rigden was proposed by Dr. McCracken for membership. Under the heading of new business the question was raised of the advisability of the change of meeting date from the third Friday to the first Thursday of the month. After some discussion, Dr. McCracken and Miss Baldwin were appointed as a committee of two, to investigate the advisability of changing the date to a time that would be more suitable to everyone.

There was a preliminary report con-

cerning the question of destruction of salt marsh bird refuges, to the effect that the Federal Telegraph Company owning property along the Bay shore would be glad to cooperate in preserving the natural condition of their property.

Among field notes, Black Phoebes were reported nesting near Woodside, Mockingbirds were reported as permanent residents on Amherst St., Palo Alto, and Pine Siskins were reported appearing in flocks on the Page Mill Road. One Bush-tit nest under observation by Miss Baldwin has been completed since the last meeting.

Sixty-five members and friends were present to see three reels of moving pictures of birds of the Stanford Campus and vicinity, shown by Mr. John Price. Many interesting pictures of nest-building activities, feeding young birds, and bird banding, and pictures of twenty-nine different species, from the California Clapper Rail to the Song Sparrow, were shown.

Adjourned.—(MISS) CLARE MCGEE, *Secretary*.

APRIL.—The fourth regular meeting of the Stanford Chapter, Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club, was held on Thursday, April 5, 1934, at 8:00 p. m., in room 430, Jordan Hall, Stanford University, with Dr. Willis H. Rich in the Chair and sixty members and guests present. The minutes of the March meeting were approved as read. The committee appointed to investigate the preservation of a Bay Shore Bird Refuge presented a report in a letter from Mrs. Hackley. Mr. Bixby, the Palo Alto City Engineer, and Mr. James, his assistant, have applied to the State Fish and Game Commission to have about 1000 acres on the Bay Shore declared a State Bird or Game Refuge. It was suggested by them that the Cooper Club urge the Commission to grant this request. Mrs. Hackley recommended that the Chair appoint a committee to consult with the Arden Company and with Mr. Bixby. It was moved, seconded and carried that the Chair appoint a committee of three to consult the Arden Salt Co. and Mr. Bixby concerning the matter. A motion was carried that the President should be a member of the committee.

The Secretary announced that any change of mailing address should be reported to Mr. J. McB. Robertson, Buena Park, California. Such changes must reach him by April 15, 1934, in order to be entered in the C. O. C. roster which will appear in the May Condor. Miss Alice

Baldwin was elected on a white ballot to fill the position of Secretary of the Stanford Chapter left vacant by Miss Clare McGee, who will no longer be at Stanford.

Mr. Joseph Dixon reported on Harry S. Swarth's "Birds of Nunivak Island" as a very worthwhile contribution to recent ornithological literature. It was published by the Cooper Club. Mrs. R. E. Hackley reported that the eggs of a pair of Mockingbirds hatched on April 3, 1934. The nest is located in a pyracantha bush, three feet from the ground, at the home of Mrs. de Roco, Cowper and Marion Sts., Palo Alto. A nest of the Spotted Towhee under the observation of Miss Clare McGee contained four eggs on March 25. As the nest was empty on April 5, it is assumed that it was robbed. Green-backed Goldfinches were seen building two weeks ago. Miss Elsa Dresbach told of seeing trees literally covered with Oriole nests during a recent trip into Nevada. A number of Avocets were noted three weeks ago on San Francisco Bay near the Dumbarton Bridge. One of the members reported seeing her first nuthatch for the season within the last few days. The question was raised as to why a California Towhee should peck on a window pane. One bird has been observed doing this for five or six months. The reflection seen by the bird was offered as a possible answer. Miss Alice Baldwin reported the hatching of five Coast Bush-tits on April 5, 1934, in a nest on the campus. John B. Price asked that all bird nests found in the vicinity of Stanford and Palo Alto be reported to him for purposes of photography.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. Joseph S. Dixon, who spoke on "Wild Life of Mt. McKinley National Park". Connected with the Wild Life Division of the Park Service, Mr. Dixon has spent three summers and a winter in the Mt. McKinley region. The lecture was beautifully illustrated with excellent colored slides. Much of the flora of the region was vividly described and pictured. Timber-line on the main Alaskan Range ends at 3000 feet elevation, the forests consisting chiefly of black spruce which there gives way to dwarf willows and tundra. Mr. Dixon placed the main emphasis on the bird life of the region. Most of the migratory birds are eastern, the Rosy Finch being one of the few western birds found on the coast. Many birds of Mt. McKinley were

described and illustrated. Mr. Dixon spoke especially of the Wandering Tattler and the Surf-bird. The former perches in the tops of the willows and nests along the glacial streams. The nesting place of the Surf-bird was unknown until discovered by Mr. George Wright in 1926. Acting on an Indian legend, he found the birds breeding high on the Alaskan Range where only the Alaskan White Sheep live. A vivid picture was left with us of magnificent Mt. McKinley, its tremendous glaciers almost constantly veiled in clouds.

Adjourned.—ALICE H. BALDWIN, *Secretary*.

MAY.—The May meeting of the Stanford Chapter, Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club, was called together by Dr. Willis Rich. Twenty members and guests were present. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Mrs. Hackley reported for the Committee on the Bay Shore Bird Refuge, using a map to point out the region in question. The committee has contacted the City of Palo Alto through Mr. Bixby, the McKay Radio Co., and the Arden Salt Co., all of which are anxious to cooperate in preserving the area as a bird refuge. All own a portion of the property. As the matter now stands, the Committee is seeking the preservation of an area which runs from Cooley Landing around Favors field, across the airport and the Yacht Harbor to South Shore Port. The marsh out beyond the Yacht Harbor has not been reclaimed; that belonging to the Radio Co. is dry. The rest of the region is made up of salt ponds owned by the Arden Salt Co. About 2000 acres are included, the majority of birds being found in the intake pond next to the open cut from the Bay. Although no contact has yet been made, it is possible that the marshes north of the Dumbarton Bridge may be included. Application to the California Fish and Game Commission will not be made until the consent of all parties has been obtained. The Secretary requested that as soon as more definite information is available the Committee send such information to Mrs. Grinnell.

A motion was carried assessing all members of the Stanford Chapter twenty-five cents a year to cover the expense of postage. It was requested that notice of meetings be published in the Palo Alto Times.

The following field observations were made. On June 10, 1933, a bantam chicken

laid several eggs in a Quail's nest in Palo Alto. These eggs were hatched by the Quail. Unlike her own chicks, the bantam chicks refused to leave the nest, and the mother was observed trying vainly to induce them to follow her. Failing, she stayed with them over night before they would leave. The following fall one bantam chicken was seen feeding with the flock of quail. Mrs. Hackley reported that the four Mockingbird nestlings under her observation had been destroyed by a cat. Dr. McCracken told of observing a flock of thirty to thirty-two Curlews in the Rifle Range near Stanford on April 29, an Olive-sided Flycatcher on May 1, and a Lawrence Goldfinch on May 3, the two latter on the campus.

Dr. Pickwell added to the report on Curlews, stating that a rancher had observed a flock five miles south of San Jose during the last week. Lark Sparrows were seen by Dr. Rich on the Sandhill Road and in the fields near the Ryan Laboratory. A juvenile Nuthatch was noted on May 3. Mr. Henri Hill told of a quail which was caught in a tree on Kifer Road. Its mate spent some time trying to feed it. Mrs. Hackley spoke of observing an adult titmouse teaching its young to peck at worms on the grass. She reported that a pair of Bush-tits nested in a sweet pea vine. It was abandoned when the weight of the nest pulled it to the ground, and a second one was built in an oak. Another pair nested on a rose bush. It was reported that a Robin was incubating on May 3. In another nest four nestlings were being fed on the same date. The member reporting has noted that in vicinities where lawns increase in number, the Robins tend to stay through the winter.

Mr. Junius Henderson, the speaker of the evening, talking on "Birds in Relation to Human Welfare," presented a wealth of interesting material. He spoke of the experimental method of study as far superior to the empirical—pointing out the advantages of the former in economic work with birds. Using many examples, Mr. Henderson showed that much foresight and research are necessary on the part of economic workers in determining whether any particular species deserves protection or extermination. The resultant upset of equilibrium in nature was pointed out in cases where a species has been destroyed in a given region. The speaker showed that a species may be harmful to

man under one set of conditions and very helpful under another. All species must have enemies to prevent over-population. The speaker pointed out that non-game birds need protection by game laws and urged that the Cooper Club aid in bringing this about.

At the conclusion of the evening's talk, Mr. Lastreto gave a vivid description of the Ninth Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club at San Diego. Several of the more important and interesting papers were mentioned. The action of the Board of Governors, incorporating the Cooper Club was noted.

Adjourned—ALICE H. BALDWIN, *Secretary*.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

MAY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held Tuesday, May 29, 1934, at 8:00 p. m., at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, with President Abbott in the chair and forty-five members and guests present. Minutes of the Southern Division for April were read and approved. Excerpts from the March and April minutes of the Northern Division were read.

The application for membership of Mr. J. N. Darling, Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., proposed by Mr. Aldo Leopold, was presented. The recent death of Dr. Edward W. Nelson, honorary member of the club, was announced with regret by President Abbott. A meeting of the Federated Scientific Societies, under the auspices of the Nature Club, to be held June 22 to 28, at Pacific Palisades, was reported by Mr. Harris and confirmed by Miss Vignos.

While at Salton Sea this spring, Dr. Burt said he had found that the Gull-billed Terns were holding their own and that 250 pairs were nesting; White Pelicans were nesting on both islands; the Fulvous Tree-ducks were numerous but no nests were seen. He also told something of the conservation movement which is now being planned for Salton Sea. The motion was made by Dr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Harris, and duly carried, that Dr. Burt secure additional information and present same at the June meeting as a more or less formal report so that it might be acted upon by the Club. Miss Vignos asked if Cardinals were unusual for Pacific Palisades. She said two had been heard singing but were not seen. Dr.

Bishop commented on birds noted while on a recent motor trip to Hemet and into the San Jacinto Mountains. Dr. Miller told of seeing in early May, at Olancho, an unusual flight of the Long-eared Owl.

Dr. Wilfred H. Osgood, of the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, who was present as a visiting member, spoke of the early days of the Cooper Club when he was its first president and there were but three other members, and of how incredible it was to realize that four boys, 16 to 17 years of age, should have started an organization that has gone as far as the Cooper Club has. In closing, Dr. Osgood said that in Chicago this fall the American Ornithologists' Union would hold its meeting and he hoped there would be a good attendance from the Pacific Coast.

Motion pictures taken at San Diego when the Ninth Annual Meeting of the Club was in session, on the boat trip to the Coronados Islands, and later at Sespe Canyon where the April out-of-door meeting was held, were shown by Mr. J. R. Pemberton and greatly enjoyed by those present, and re-enjoyed when the film was run in reverse. A hearty vote of thanks was extended Mr. Pemberton for the entertainment.

Meeting adjourned.—LAURA B. LAW, *Secretary*.

JUNE.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at 8 p. m. on Tuesday, June 26, 1934, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, with eighteen members and guests present. None of the officers being present, Mr. John McB. Robertson was requested to act as chairman. The minutes of the May meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved. The minutes of the May meeting of the Northern Division were read.

In regard to the conservation movement being planned to set aside a portion of the land bordering the Salton Sea, Dr. Burt reported that since the last meeting he saw Mr. McAtee of the Biological Survey and that Mr. McAtee, after investigating the situation at Salton Sea, had made a report to the Biological Survey at Washington. Dr. Burt felt that his own information was insufficient to warrant a report to the Club for formal action. The present preserve contains only a portion of the Salton Sea and none of the marginal

lands, and the plan being proposed contemplates the donation of certain lands by the irrigation district provided the Federal Government will purchase certain individually owned lands. Dr. Burt stated that after such lands are acquired it will be necessary to spend considerable money for a fresh-water supply and a dike to separate the fresh water area from the salt water. Mr. Robertson suggested that it might be well to refer the question to the Conservation Committee of the Southern Division for investigation and report, this Committee consisting of Messrs. Willett, Pierce and Pemberton. A motion embodying that suggestion was made by Dr. Burt seconded by Mr. Glassell and carried.

Mr. Lamb reported seeing a flock of about 300 Wood Ibis about five miles this side of Yuma. Mr. Glassell asked why Turkey Vultures perch in such numbers around the small corn fields in Mexico; there does not seem to be food there to attract them. Dr. Warmer asked where Phainopeplas nest, stating that many of them are around his home but he has discovered no nests. Dr. Burt reported a nest of that species in an oak tree in Ojai, and Dr. Parsons reported one in a eucalyptus tree and one in a pepper tree in Monrovia last year.

Dr. Parsons told of transferring an orphaned two-day-old Costa Hummingbird to the nest of a Black-chinned Hummingbird where the one remaining young was about six days old. Both young were raised to maturity. At one stage in their development the female Black-chinned was feeding the young Costa in the nest, feeding the young Black-chinned off the nest and incubating another set of eggs in another nest. Dr. Parsons has been making daily weighings of these and other young hummingbirds. He also told of seeing in Modjeska Canyon a woodpecker (presumably a California Woodpecker) take a young wren from a wren's nest in a nest box and carry it up into a tree.

Mrs. Michener stated that she had that day trapped a molting immature Song Sparrow and a molting immature Mockingbird, the first to come to her attention this season. She also reported more nests than ever before on her home lot. Eighteen have been found so far this season.

The meeting adjourned to inspect the nest and eggs of the Mangrove Warbler which Mr. Lamb had collected.—HAROLD MICHENER, *Secretary pro-tem*.