

"The Hawks of North America" is the title of a book just issued by the National Association of Audubon Societies as part of its very worthy educational campaign toward the preservation of this valuable group of birds. The excellent colored plates were done by Allan Brooks and the authoritative text was compiled by John B. May.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

MARCH.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, March 21, 1935, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2003 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Miller in the Chair and fifty-five members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for February were read and approved. Portions of the minutes of the Southern Division for February were read. February minutes of the Stanford Chapter were read by title. Mr. Paul F. Covel, 3133 Jordan Road, Oakland, Calif., was proposed for membership by J. M. Linsdale, and Mrs. Emanuel Fritz, 928 Fresno Ave., Berkeley, Calif., by Mrs. J. Grinnell.

Mrs. G. E. Kelly reported seeing fifteen White-throated Swifts in the glory-hole at Leona Heights on March 13. Howard Twining told of noting two male Rufous Hummingbirds in Strawberry Canyon, one on March 9 and one on March 17, each in the vicinity of Allen Hummingbirds. Mr. Grinnell reviewed "A Guide to Bird Songs," by Aretas A. Saunders, and expressed the wish that some equally gifted author would provide a similar study of the songs of our western birds. Mr. Alden Miller announced that a pamphlet by V. C. Wynne-Edwards of Montreal, which he had found useful when crossing the Atlantic last summer, has now been enlarged and published under the title "Birds of the North Atlantic."

The evening's program was a talk by Mr. Thomas T. McCabe on "Avifaunas of the Northwest, a Theory of Distribution." Mr. McCabe's long field experience in British Columbia and his familiarity not only with the high plateau country of the interior but also with the fringe of islands along the seacoast made him especially well qualified to analyze the

bird problems presented in that Province. It is his belief that the plateau country was held in the grip of the ice-age much longer than the coastal region, a theory apparently confirmed if the very slight degree of endemism of the resident forms is to be accepted as a criterion. The geographic races of the adjacent coast district tend to vary uniformly from those races of the same species occurring to the eastward, in the smaller size of the coastal birds and their tendency to deeper and more reddish hues. Apparently those variations which are found restricted to the northwest coast are locally evolved.

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

APRIL.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, April 25, 1935, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Miller in the Chair and sixty members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for March were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for March were read. Applications for membership were: Louis A. Elmore, 511 Clay St., Ukiah, Calif., proposed by J. Grinnell; Charles H. Feltes, 216 Ruberto St., Modesto, Calif., by J. M. Linsdale; Tom Kirksey, Hamilton Field, Marin Co., Calif., by Mrs. Otis H. Smith.

Mr. Dyer reported upon the activities of his resident Road-runner, which this year started calling on January 31. A trick not noted last year is that of clapping its wings behind its back, thus making a sound audible for seventy-five yards. The bird's habit of carrying lizards led Mr. Dyer to time its activity in this regard. The longest observed period of continuously carrying an individual lizard in the bill was three hours. This year the Road-runner has secured a mate, but aside from a nest started by the pair in Mr. Dyer's house and then abandoned, no structure had been discovered up to the time of this report.

On April 20, Mr. B. C. Cain saw two Baird Sandpipers on Cypress Point, Monterey County. Mrs. Allen noted Hermit Warblers in the oak trees at her home on April 24. Miss Stedman asked whether Golden-crowned Sparrows frequenting a well-stocked feeding table would be apt to linger beyond the usual migration date.

Mr. Sumner, Sr., replied that he knew of no instance in which such lingering has occurred. Miss Selma Werner recorded seeing three Vermilion Flycatchers and six Arizona Hooded Orioles in Phoenix, Arizona, March 31. Mrs. A. P. Bigelow, a guest at the meeting, reported that a Utah correspondent, Mr. W. H. Meal, had written her of seeing five hundred Sandhill Cranes at the mouth of the Bear River on April 3, at the point where the grounds of the Bear River Duck Shooting Club adjoin the Federal Migratory Bird Refuge. Mrs. A. B. Stephens, on April 20, saw near the San Mateo bridge six Northern Phalaropes, four Egrets and about two hundred Knots. She also reported that on April 17 near the Cliff House, San Francisco, Commander Parmenter saw several Pigeon Guillemots and two Wandering Tattlers. Mr. Alden Miller said that he had just been handed a Yellow-breasted Chat, picked up dead under wires on Euclid Avenue, a species rarely seen in Berkeley. Mrs. G. E. Kelly reported upon fourteen species of shore birds and also gave an early date for the Olive-sided Flycatcher, she having seen one on the Stanford Campus on April 15.

Mr. Lewis W. Taylor, head of the Poultry Division of the University of California, spoke on the "Origin of the Domestic Fowl" and outlined the probable original ranges of the wild forms of *Gallus*. Mr. Taylor showed study skins of several of these and pointed out characteristics which are traceable in certain breeds of domestic fowl. The talk aroused such interest that informal discussion around the tray of skins lasted long after the close of the meeting.

Adjourned.—HILDA W. GRINNELL, Secretary.

STANFORD CHAPTER

MARCH.—The monthly meeting of the Stanford Chapter of the Cooper Ornithological Club was called to order by President Willis H. Rich on the evening of March 7. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read.

President Rich regretted to announce the resignation from the chairmanship of the Bay Shore Refuge Committee of Mrs. Sadie G. Hackley because of ill health. The Chair appointed Mr. John B. Price to this chairmanship and Mrs. Willis W. Wagener to serve as a new member on the committee. The secretary read a final report from Mrs. Hackley, who stated

(1) that she thought Mr. Norman Schofield of the State Fish and Game Commission should be appointed as an ex-officio member of the Bay Shore Refuge Committee; (2) that action by the Committee should be completed soon in order that the State Legislature should still be in session when invited to pass upon the proposal; (3) that Mr. Roydon of the Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company will be glad to cooperate by writing a letter to the State Fish and Game Commission enclosing a map of that company's property whenever we notify him to do so; (4) that the Alviso Salt Company has made no further developments on its lands for the past two years; and (5) that a letter should be written by the Northern Division of the Cooper Club to the president of said Company, a Mr. Hardy of San Francisco, quoting the law involved and asking him to cooperate. Discussion arose, led by Mr. Lastreto, as to the real value of this proposed refuge in terms of the birds and animals helped by its establishment. Mr. Lastreto also pointed out that since much of the proposed refuge is reclaimed land, and that since the Palo Alto Airport is to be located on a part of the refuge, a thorough investigation should be made to determine the true value of the proposed refuge. It was recommended by the Chair that the Committee undertake such an investigation.

In the field of literature, Mr. Miller mentioned the recent appearance of "Part VII" of the "Catalogue of Birds of the Americas" contributed by C. E. Hellmayr of the Field Museum of Natural History of Chicago and published by the same institution.

A White-tailed Kite was reported seen near Los Altos recently by Mr. Henry. Mr. Rich reported a white heron seen along the Bayshore Highway near San Francisco.

President Rich then introduced the speaker for the evening, Mr. Alden H. Miller of the University of California, who spoke on "The Natural History of the Loggerhead Shrike." Mr. Miller stated that his object in studying the shrikes has been to tie up the natural history of shrikes with their specific and subspecific classifications. He undertook to do this by making a careful study of their behavior. He pointed out that similar studies of other birds have done much to throw light on the behavior of birds. Mr. Miller then proceeded to tell something of the results of his studies, supplemented

with interesting personal experiences.

Adjourned.—WILBUR V. HENRY, *Secretary*.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

MARCH.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at 8 o'clock, Tuesday evening, March 26, 1935, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, with President Cowles in the Chair and forty-eight members and guests present. Minutes of the Southern Division for February were read and approved. Minutes of the Northern Division for February were read. The application for membership of Miss Mary Louise Fossler, 550 North Los Robles Ave., Pasadena, proposed by Hildegarde Howard, was presented.

There being no special program for the evening, President Cowles suggested that a few bird skins of unfamiliar and confusing species be submitted for identification and observation. Mr. Willett placed on the table a tray containing the Parasitic, Pomarine, and Long-tailed jaegers and, at the request of the Chair, gave a short explanatory talk concerning the general distribution of each species, its apparent abundance or scarcity in numbers off the Pacific Coast, the two plumage phases occurring in the Parasitic and Pomarine forms, and the differences in shape of the long middle tail feathers. Confusion arises when identifications are based on coloration of legs and feet. He described the method used by jaegers in procuring food by robbing gulls, terns, and shearwaters. Mr. Willett also called attention to Hildegarde Howard's work on the bone characters of the different species, and to the fact that anyone interested in examining the specimens would find identifying bones accompanying each skin.

Mr. George Cantwell is investigating the cause of the death on March 19 of several hundred Cedar Waxwings while they were feeding on the fruit of the date palm. His report was read by Hildegarde Howard. This same sudden death of Cedar Waxwings has occurred in other years and apparently may be brought about by eating the berries of the pepper trees, as well as the fruit of the date palm. Robins, too, have died in a similar manner from eating the China berry. A number of theories were advanced as to the cause of this rapid poisoning, acute indigestion, or respiratory paralysis, among birds in good physical condition. Several members

have secured specimens of the dead birds and are making a special study of the malady.

Adjourned.—LAURA B. LAW, *Secretary*.

APRIL.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held Sunday, April 28, 1935, at Henley's Camp, Sespe Canyon, on invitation extended by Messrs. Laurence and Sidney B. Peyton. In the morning, some of the members walked up canyon to a site most favorable for viewing the California Condors in flight. The weather, however, was not good for visibility and only two of the birds were seen.

In mid-afternoon the meeting was called to order, with President Cowles in the Chair and about 60 members and guests present, including the Marquis Hachisuka, visiting member from Japan, who is writing "The Birds of the Philippine Islands" and has published the third part of this work. Minutes of the Southern Division for March were read and approved. Minutes of the Northern Division for March were read. The following applications for membership were presented: Mr. William Stewart Robinson, 2795 McConnell Drive, Palms Station, Los Angeles, and Mr. Orey Tanner, 5019 Constance St., New Orleans, Louisiana, proposed by W. Lee Chambers; Mr. Carlos Stannard, Route 1, Box 1178, Phoenix, Arizona, proposed by Harry L. Crockett; Mr. Uhl R. Kuhn, U. S. Dept. Agriculture, Nogales, Arizona, proposed by Walter P. Taylor.

Mr. Sidney B. Peyton told of visiting a Condor's nest that was used last year and finding in it one perfect clam shell about two inches in diameter, and at least two quarts of shell fragments. The edges of the fragments were worn smooth and evidently had been carried from some beach, but the location of the nest was a considerable distance from the coast. Mr. Reis reported having seen a pair of Condors near the mouth of Gaviota Pass. Mr. Cantwell stated that his investigations on the death of the Cedar Waxwings were such as to lead him to believe that the birds had died from a hydrocyanic gas poisoning created by fermentation.

President Cowles conveyed to the Peytons the appreciation of the Southern Division members for another pleasant day at Henley's Camp and for the splendid hospitality which had been so kindly extended to all. In response Mr. Laurence

Peyton made the suggestion that a trip to Henley's Camp be considered, if a day afield is planned for the annual meeting of the Cooper Club next year when it is held in Los Angeles. Meeting adjourned.—LAURA B. LAW, *Secretary*.

TENTH ANNUAL MEETING

For ten years the members of the Cooper Ornithological Club have followed the fine old Quaker custom of holding "Yearly Meeting" and have found it good. This year we met on Friday morning, May 24, 1935, in the Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley. When President Alden Miller of the Northern Division welcomed visitors from the south there were 74 people present, and by the end of the morning session there were 86 in the room. Mr. Harold Michener of Pasadena responded to Mr. Miller's welcome. The following program filled the morning session: Annual Behavior Pattern in the White-crowned Sparrow, by Barbara D. Blanchard, University of California; Effects on Bird Life of Human Activities in National Parks and Monuments, by E. Lowell Sumner, Jr., National Park Service; Bush-tits "Shadow-boxing," by John McB. Robertson, Buena Park; The Systematic Position of the Osprey, by Lawrence V. Compton, University of California; Birds and Man in Western Europe, by Tracy I. Storer, University of California at Davis. A most varied and profitable group of papers this proved to be, bringing forward many new facts regarding western birds. The last read paper gave us a clear picture of the present-day place of birds in the older countries as viewed by an American visitor.

Of greatest moment was the unscheduled contribution by Mr. Robert T. Moore, California Institute of Technology, on The Protection and Conservation of the Zoological Life of the Galapagos Archipelago. This paper brought news of the permissive creation by the Ecuadorean government of a zoological sanctuary where endemic species will receive the protection which is now vital to their continued existence. One provision of the act positively protects the peculiar Albatross of those islands, the Galapagos Penguin, and the unique Flightless Cormorant. Among the group of scientists who have worked untiringly to bring protection to the harassed fauna of the Galapagos, Mr. Moore paid high tribute to Mr. Harry S. Swarth, qualified

by field experience to champion the cause, and having given most generously of his time to aid it.

After an informal luncheon at the Faculty Club the group gathered at 2:00 p.m. for the afternoon session. Mr. Loye Miller presided, and papers presented were: The Molts and Plumages of Horned Larks, by William H. Behle, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology; More Evidence on the Communistic Habits of the California Woodpecker, by William E. Ritter, University of California; Relationships of New World Genera of Geese, by Alden H. Miller, University of California; An Observation on Eye-shine and Feeding Habits of the Poor-will, by Amelia S. Allen, Berkeley; Proportions of Limb Segments in Thrashers, by William L. Engels, University of California.

At the close of this session the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, housed in the Life Sciences Building, held open house, the collections being inspected under the guidance of staff members and students. Whether furred, scaled or feathered, all specimens were ready for scrutiny. In the evening the Board of Governors and Directors met for dinner in the O'Neill Room of the Faculty Club, following which the Annual Business Meeting of the Board was held (see page 223).

On Saturday morning the newly-hatched "Cooper Club Incorporated" under the able guidance of Mr. Howard Robertson carried through its first business session with such precision of action that we are forced to classify it as a precocial rather than an altricial bird. At 10:30 o'clock Mr. Alden Miller resumed the Chair and the following papers were read: Three Tertiary Bird Fossils from the Western United States, by Lawrence V. Compton, University of California; Abnormalities in Birds: I. Tumors, by Harold Michener and Josephine R. Michener, Pasadena; An Exhibit of Rarities from the Collections of the California Academy of Sciences, by Mrs. M. E. McLellan Davidson, California Academy of Sciences; Up-hill Planters, by Joseph Grinnell, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

A most interesting unlisted paper was read at this session, "A Nomenclatural Problem in Mutation," by Marquis Hachisuka, it being our good fortune that this prominent world ornithologist should pass this way just now, homeward bound to Tokio.

Saturday afternoon, following a lunch-