



Fig. 39. Dr. Louis B. Bishop, Life Member and member Board of Governors, Cooper Ornithological Club; author of many publications bearing upon the systematics of North American birds.

catcher, Cactus Wren, Bridled Titmouse and Arizona Junco accorded the status of migrants. Equally inconsistent are some of the omissions in the official lists relative to migratory birds of the United States and Canada. Such a situation invites contempt among the large body of persons informed in these matters that annually report their collecting activities to the federal government. Are the legal complications so formidable that these errors can not be corrected?—A.H.M.

An amazingly large amount of printed or mimeographed literature dealing with applied natural history reaches us these days. Nearly all of this proves worth while scanning; here and there the reader hits upon definitely new facts, new ideas, or new and apt statements of well known principles. In a recent report, for March, 1937, from the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Service, which is directed by Dr. Walter P. Taylor from headquarters at the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College, we read (p. 9): "The game food problem in Dallas County is not one of getting food plants to grow, but of letting native plants mature and seed. If a farmer wants game, he will have to eliminate sheep and goats from his pas-

tures or fence off and protect from grazing certain appropriate areas." The valid principle implied is that the usual type of heavy grazing is incompatible with maintenance on the same ground of any seed or grain eating birds whether of game or non-game kind. The greatest menace to the interests of the sportsman and bird-lover, aside from the over-indulgence of the former, is excessive grazing, and most grazing as now practiced is excessive. This inverse correlation, of grazing with wildlife production, holds at least as well for California as for Texas.—J.G.

The damage to birds from oil occasioned by the wrecking of an oil transport ship in the entrance to San Francisco Bay last March was particularly heavy among California Murres. Following this disaster some attention already has been given to the status of the colonies along the coast of central California. Reports from the Farallon Islands are encouraging, suggesting that the off-shore population was little affected; but the Point Reyes colony is reported to be almost non-existent. A timely endeavor during June of this year would be to make a census of breeding colonies within the area of oil damage.—A.H.M.

The Sierra Nevada Hermit Thrush is a well marked subspecies which has an extensive summer-time range along the Sierra Nevada within the boreal life-zone, mainly well above an altitude of 4000 feet. While doubtless thousands of individuals spend the summer and rear their young there, and all of this population winters somewhere south of the Mexican boundary, yet there is no record (definitely known at this writing) of an individual of this race from any California locality below, south of, or outside of, the breeding area. In other words, here is a bird for which there is no indication of lowland route of approach to, or departure from, its breeding area—despite the great amount of collecting that has been carried on at migration times. In the spring, the Sierra Nevada Hermit Thrushes simply *arrive* on their nesting grounds—can it be by a long-distance air-way high above the immediately southward terrain?—J.G.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

JANUARY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, January 28, 1937, at 8 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Miller in the chair and 95 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for December were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division were read by title only. Minutes of the Stanford Chapter were read. Names proposed for membership were as follows: Robert

S. Bach, 404 U. S. Court House, Portland, Oregon, by E. L. Sumner, Sr.; Merrick Fred Hersey, Box 734, Crockett, California, and Frederick H. Dale, Inskip Power House, Paynes Creek, Calif., by J. M. Linsdale; Dr. Max Minor Peet, 2030 Hill Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan, by Josselyn Van Tyne; David H. Johnson, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, by Emmet T. Hooper; Natasha D. Smith, 2203 Piedmont Avenue, Berkeley, by Frances Carter; Donald Stewart Brock, 5840 Seminary Court, Oakland, Calif., by E. I. Dyer; Mrs. Anne B. Terry, U. S. Veterans' Hospital, Palo Alto, Calif., by Wilbur V. Henry. A motion for the election of W. Lee Chambers to honorary membership in the Club was unanimously carried.

The secretary read a letter from Charles W. Davis, superintendent of the recreation department of Berkeley, thanking the Cooper Club for its interest in the bird refuge established at the aquatic park. Mr. Cain told of plans for adding to the swan population of Lake Merritt, for esthetic reasons, and also said that the identification pictures at the duck feeding station were to be renewed. He suggested that notices of meetings of the Cooper Club, Audubon Society and similar organizations, posted in that place, might serve as a means of contact with visitors interested in birds. Mr. Behle reported that the Alameda County branch of the American Wild Life Federation had held regular monthly meetings.

Mr. Linsdale presented the slate of officers for the coming year, as drawn up by the nominating committee: President, Eric C. Kinsey; Vice-president, Brighton C. Cain; Secretary, Hilda W. Grinnell; Recording Secretary, Frances Carter. It was moved and carried that the nominations be closed and the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the officers so nominated. President Miller then turned the meeting over to the incoming president, Mr. Kinsey.

The topic for the evening was "Winter Field Notes," and a great many members responded with observations of real interest and value. President Kinsey commented on the continued scarcity of some species, especially the Varied Thrush, in Marin County. Mr. Bond had seen large numbers of Varied Thrushes near Grants Pass, Oregon, on New Year's Day. There was some discussion of the effects of the recent cold weather on bird life, with the general conclusion that land birds showed a decrease, whereas an increase in waterfowl was noticeable locally. Mr. Dyer described in detail his method of reviving hummingbirds suffering from cold and lack of food. Mr. Dixon reported that Trumpeter Swans in Yellowstone National Park had succeeded in rearing a brood

of six, last season. There were numerous reports of Christmas censuses and unusual records from various parts of the state. Mr. Grinnell announced that copies of the revised list, "Birds of the Berkeley Campus," were available. The problem of controlling the shooting of non-game birds was discussed, and the constructive suggestion of rifle ranges for boys, with instruction in the proper use of firearms, was offered.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

FEBRUARY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, February 25, 1937, at 8 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Kinsey in the chair and about 85 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for January were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division and of the Stanford Chapter were read. Names proposed for membership were as follows: Mrs. Helene Kosby, 2585 Louis Road, Palo Alto, Calif., by Wilbur V. Henry; J. Dewey Soper, 827 Riverwood Avenue, Fort Garry, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, by J. Grinnell; Howard K. Gloyd, Chicago Academy of Sciences, 2001 N. Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois, by J. M. Linsdale; Miss Margaret A. Barry, General Delivery, Stanford University, Calif., by Laidlaw Williams; Martin Dale Arvey, 2500 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, and Miss Jean Kennedy, 2550 Ellsworth Street, Berkeley, by Frank Richardson; Milton Lewis Seibert, 4649 Redding Street, Oakland, by Brighton C. Cain.

Mr. Grinnell exhibited a volume of Linnaeus' *Systema Naturae*, tenth edition, of 1758. By comparison with the fourth edition of the A. O. U. Check-list, 153 species of North American birds were found to have been first described in that work. President Kinsey recalled that early records of aviculture show that European ornithologists of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries were familiar with many American species through the importing of caged birds. A letter which he had just received from M. Delacour stated that, whereas the Eastern Bluebird had long been known, specimens of the Western and especially the Mountain bluebirds had aroused great interest at the London Zoo. All but a very few of the 129 birds taken to European Zoos by M. Delacour had arrived safely.

The presence this month of a Harris Sparrow, an uncommon species in Berkeley, was reported. Miss Stedman recalled having seen a male Cardinal in her garden in Oakland last August and said that one was again present

February 12, 19, and 22, when she had the opportunity of hearing several of its different notes. Mr. Dyer reported the nesting of thrashers and said that an unmated Road-runner was rebuilding two of his last year's nests. Twenty Wood Ducks were reported seen in the southern part of Alameda County on February 21. Mr. Emlen had seen groups of thirty and fifty Wood Ducks in the Sacramento Valley. He also reported an albinotic Red-tailed Hawk, having the tail feathers white. The first recent record of a Burrowing Owl in Berkeley was given for January 10. Mr. Cain added the Chestnut-backed Chickadee, identified January 26, to the list of birds seen at the Boy Scout Camp sanctuary, Oakland, bringing the total to 44 species. There were several reports of Allen, Anna, and migrating Rufous hummingbirds. Mr. Richardson mentioned the pairing of Bush-tits in Strawberry Canyon since February 10; Mrs. Kelly told of a nest in Alameda; Mr. Kinsey said that the regularly flocking birds in Marin County were still in flocks.

Mr. Jean M. Linsdale spoke on "Conditions for Waterbirds in California." A relief map illustrated important areas throughout the state. His study was chiefly concerned with changes in habitats and in relative numbers of different species, in order to compare the present status of the birds with their former condition, insofar as that may now be determined. He indicated the principal refuges, classified types of hunting grounds, described current shooting practices which he had observed, and outlined the relation of waterbirds to agriculture.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

JANUARY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on January 26, 1937, at 8 p.m. at the Los Angeles Museum, with President Little in the chair and 26 members and guests present. Minutes of the Southern Division for December were read and approved. Minutes of the Northern Division for December were read.

In the absence of all members of the nominating committee, Howard Robertson reported for Dr. Miller and Lee Chambers, and he stated that Dr. Rich no doubt would concur with the others. It was the wish of the committee that the present officers be re-elected, to serve for 1937. It was then moved, seconded, and carried, that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the present officers.

Howard Robertson reported on the effect

of the continued cold weather on birds in southern California, several individuals being reported either frozen or starved to death. Mrs. Michener reported three Audubon Warblers having died from the effects of the cold. She also reported the capture of a Cardinal and a White-throated Sparrow in a friend's trap. Miss Fossler said that the birds are evidently suffering from hunger, as they are coming around her kitchen begging for food. Mrs. Law had a pellet that had been disgorged by a shrike at Dr. Atkinson's window. It was given to Miss Fossler for examination and analysis. Dr. Wood reported on the manner the Hermit Thrushes in the Big Santa Anita Canyon were eating the holly berries. Paul Trapier told of the nesting in Utah of a Black-throated Sparrow, close to where a ditch was being dug; much dynamite was used, but the blasting did not seem to disturb the birds. President Little was to contact the Northern Division and establish a definite date for the Annual Meeting.

Adjourned.—SIDNEY B. PEYTON, *Secretary*.

FEBRUARY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, on February 23, 1937, at 8 p.m. with 22 members and guests present. In the absence of both the President and Vice-president, J. R. Pemberton presided. Minutes of the Southern Division for January were read and approved. Minutes of the Northern Division were read. Applications for membership were: Willis E. Pequegnat, University of California at Los Angeles, by Loye Miller; Dean Hobbs Blanchard, Santa Paula, Calif., by John McB. Robertson; Robie W. Tufts, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada, James Savage, Buffalo Athletic Club, Buffalo, New York, Compton Crook, P. O. Box 1216, Williamsburg, Virginia, and Harry H. Dutton, M.D., Fort Steilacoom, Wash., by W. Lee Chambers.

A letter from Dr. Wood, Secretary of the Federation of Natural Sciences, was read, and George Cantwell was appointed to represent the Southern Division at the meetings to be held the latter part of May in Los Angeles. Announcement was made that the dates of the Annual Meeting had been set for April 16 and 17; meetings to be held in Berkeley. Lee Chambers reported on the Hardware Dealers Convention that he had attended, and commented on the duck shooting that took place in the different districts of California, the past season. Several other members gave short accounts of their observations.

Adjourned.—SIDNEY B. PEYTON, *Secretary*.