

We venture to try another postcard vote of Cooper Club members on a question of the day. The nature of this question is one that surely makes our membership well qualified to express an opinion worth learning. We refer to the moot question, Shall there be legally declared an extended and complete close season on waterfowl (ducks and geese), involving two or more years? The converse question is, Shall there continue to be an open season of more or less duration on waterfowl each year? Each one of us has been flooded with literature advocating one course or the other. Many of the angles have been ably argued, by prominent sportsmen and spokesmen for their organizations, by spokesmen for state and federal agencies, by representatives of conservation organizations, but not so vocally by free-lance ornithologists. The case, we believe, is adequately before us; let's vote, as an expression, each, of his personal judgment in the matter. Therefore will each Cooper Club member send to one or another of the *Condor* editors a postcard on which is indicated unmistakably his present stand. Signature is necessary, so that we may check off names from our membership roster. Out of 900 who might respond, surely there will be enough votes from this specially qualified group to give a fair indication of ornithological opinion. Cards should reach the editors before September 1, so that announcement of results may be made in our September issue.—J.G.

Several agencies have combined their resources in making and publishing an extensive report on "A Survey of the Resident Game and Furbearers of Missouri." This study, under the authorship of Rudolf Bennitt and Werner O. Nagel, was issued in *The University of Missouri Studies* (vol. 12, no. 2, 1937, pp. 1-215). The kind of inventory represented is needed for every part of the continent, and the need is immediate. The great changes being made in the land not only upset the adjustments of animals and plants to local conditions, but they hinder the accumulation of records such as the Missouri report includes. Apparently the type of investigation begun in this survey is to be extended on a broad basis, for it is announced (p. 194) that a \$42,500 wildlife research building has just been completed at the University of Missouri, a 2300-acre experimental tract of land is being developed, and there is already a growing program of wildlife research. How many other states can show as tangible results from activities in behalf of wildlife?—J.M.L.

"A Population Study of the Song Sparrow" which is volume I of "Studies in the Life History of the Song Sparrow," by Margaret Morse Nice, was recently published in the *Transactions of the Linnaean Society of New York* (vol. 4, April,

1937). It deals with the bird and its environment, its ecology, migration, territory, and reproduction, all from a somewhat statistical point of view, and finally with survival problems. Even though a great deal of the material has been published previously and the major conclusions anticipated, there is a distinct advantage in having all the information gathered in this eight-year study summarized in a single paper. Not only is the history of one colony of song sparrows given in great detail, but correlated information from other studies is cited, so that the work is really a text book of a large share of recent study of birds by banding. One major conclusion epitomizes a valid criticism of theories on population questions—"they all present too much theory based on too few facts. Their authors generalize too much, simplify too much."—J.M.L.

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 18, 1937, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Kinsey in the chair and 75 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for February were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division were read. Names proposed for membership were: Miss Kathryn Buchanan, 2620 Durant Ave., Berkeley, by Frances Carter; Allan D. Cameron, 1785 North El Molino, Pasadena, by Frank Richardson; Miss Helen L. Gilliam, 473 Haddon Road, Oakland, by T. Eric Reynolds; Paul Illg, Pinole, California, by Frank Richardson; Alfred L. Killam, 30 Oval Road, Oakland, by Donald S. Brock; Vincent Mowbray, 5052 Fairfax Ave., Oakland, by E. L. Sumner, Sr.; Miss Marjorie Olney, 2720 Elmwood Ave., Berkeley, by William B. Richardson; Thomas L. Rodgers, 1709 Lincoln Street, Berkeley, by Jean M. Linsdale.

Mr. Moffitt spoke a few words in memory of the late Frederic H. Kennard, of Massachusetts, a member of the Cooper Club since 1911.

Mr. Dixon reported on the meeting of the permanent Wild Life Federation at St. Louis, Missouri, March 1 to 4. Forty-one states were represented. Although organization of the federation in California has proceeded slowly, he expressed optimism for its future here.

Field observations were opened by Dr. Harry R. Painton, president of the Stanford Chapter. He told of a field trip with the Audubon Society to Uvas Valley, near Almaden, California, and compared observations with those made by him on a similar trip in 1893. Mr. Moffitt gave a number of observations from Humboldt and Del Norte counties, suggesting that previous scarcity of records from that region might be

attributed to lack of observers. He had noted an abundance of American Mergansers along the Eel River. Mr. Dyer mentioned the presence of this species on the lakes in Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland. He also told of finding a mature Rufous Hummingbird, injured by a cat. The two Anna Hummingbirds kept by him since January were released with considerable difficulty, as they preferred to remain near the abundant food supply in the cages. He further reported numbers of Mockingbirds singing near Niles, Alameda County. Mr. Gordon True had had the good fortune to see a flock of 57 Wood Ducks take flight from a branch of the San Joaquin River near Tracy. Mrs. Stephens reported a Rufous Hummingbird, March 6, in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, and a male Old-squaw Duck, March 14, at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin County. Mr. Test described reactions of Golden-crowned and White-crowned Sparrows to an albino Golden-crowned Sparrow on the campus.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. Robert T. Orr, of the California Academy of Sciences. His subject, "Observations on the Birds of the Santa Cruz Mountains and Adjacent Coast," covered three years of field work along the southwest-flowing drainage systems of San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties. He described in detail the plant associations found within the several types of habitat, such as redwood, chaparral, willow-cottonwood, marsh and marine. A total of 113 species of birds was recorded. A striking observation was that of Western Mexican Bluebirds along a beach, catching insects above the masses of kelp cast up by the tide.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary.*

SOUTHERN DIVISION

MARCH.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Tuesday, March 30, 1937, at 8 p.m., at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, with President Little in the chair and 42 members and guests present. Minutes of the Southern Division for February were read and approved. Minutes of the Northern Division for February were read by title only. Applications for membership were: John R. Stephens, 166 N. McCadden Place, Los Angeles, and John Baumgardt, 143 N. McCadden Place, Los Angeles, proposed by John McB. Robertson; Alexander H. Kerr, 2146 Kenilworth Ave., Los Angeles, by W. Lee Chambers.

Dr. Loye Miller reported on the recent publication entitled "Vertebrate Animals of Point Lobos Reserve," by Grinnell and Linsdale. George Willett told of seeing an Osprey out on the desert at least fifty miles from water. Dr. Miller told of the birds that he had observed dead on the beaches from Point Mugu southward, and said that he had observed numbers

of Cassin Auklets recently, the most that he had seen since the winter of 1908. Mr. J. R. Pemberton reported that Buena Vista Lake was again filling with water, and that there were numbers of water birds there already. Mr. Robert T. Moore reported on the protection given the fauna of the Galapagos Islands by a sanctuary established there.

Dr. W. A. Hilton of Claremont, the speaker of the evening, then showed a series of interesting slides, and told of his visit last year to the Little Barrier Islands off the coast of New Zealand. Many curious birds were encountered, some of them ground birds that were in danger of extinction because of the depredations of the foxes that had been imported from England. The Kea, a ground Parrot, that has formed the habit of killing sheep by eating into their backs to get the kidney fat, and the Kiwi, a flightless ground bird, that has the appearance and habits of a large rail, were especially interesting. Dr. Hilton was unable to see any of them in the wild, due to their nocturnal and retiring habits.

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

APRIL.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at Henley's Camp on Sespe Creek, Sunday, April 25, 1937. Members and guests came in the morning, walked up the canyon to observe birds, and returned to camp for lunch. The business meeting was held at 2:30 p.m. Minutes of the Southern Division for March were read and approved. Minutes of the Northern Division for March were read by title. In the absence of both President and Vice-president, J. R. Pemberton was appointed to preside. Applications for membership in the club were: Milton Boyd Irvine, 626 N. Electric Ave., Alhambra, by John McB. Robertson, and Miss Leno Moll, 3601 Trinity St., Eureka, Calif., by John M. Davis.

J. R. Pemberton reported further on the shooting of hawks and eagles from airplanes and stated that the Department of Commerce and the State Fish and Game Commission, both, had definitely assured him that no permits to carry or discharge firearms from an airplane would be given.

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

TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING

The twelfth annual meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held in the Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, Friday, April 16, to Sunday, April 18, 1937. On Friday morning, following the registration of members and visitors, President Eric C. Kinsey of the Northern Division made the address of welcome. Mr. Howard Robertson responded for the Southern Division. A business meeting was called, committees appointed and adjournment taken until Saturday morning.

Papers read at the first session were: Feather Studies on the Condor, by Loye Miller; An Attempt to Measure Bird Damage in Almond Orchards (illustrated), by John T. Emlen, Jr.; The Strategic Place of Birds in Philosophic Natural History, by William E. Ritter; Interspecific Relationships of Thrashers (*Toxostoma*) (illustrated), by William L. Engels; and A Comparison of Behavior of Certain North American and European Shrikes, by Alden H. Miller.

Papers read at the Friday afternoon session were: The Origin and Relationships of the Island Horned Lark, by William H. Behle; The Educational Value of Habitat Groups of Birds and Mammals (illustrated), by William T. Shaw; A New Census Method, by Harold W. Clark; The Effect of a Recent Oil Pollution on Water Birds in the San Francisco Coast Area (illustrated) by Elmer C. Aldrich; Behavior of the Pine Siskin, by Thomas L. Rodgers; Some Observations on the Sierra Nevada Rosy Finch (illustrated), by Howard Twining; Abundance and Food Habits of Raptorial Birds in Cliff Areas of Lava Beds National Monument (illustrated), by Joseph S. Dixon and Richard M. Bond; The Ornithological Work of F. O. Morris and His Relation to Darwinism, by Charles A. Kofoid.

At four o'clock members adjourned to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, where "open house" was held, specially prepared exhibits examined, and general collections inspected.

On Friday 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 p. 182.)

On Saturday morning members met at nine o'clock for the adjourned business meeting. Papers following the business session were: Bird Life in Nevada, by Jean M. Linsdale; The White-cheeked Goose in California, by James Moffitt; Voice in the Brown Towhee, by Charles W. Quaintance; Osteological Studies of the Tropical Hawk, *Harpagus*, by Loye Miller; Diseases Found in Wild Birds, by Mary L. Fossler; Adaptations for Tail-support in Birds (illustrated), by Frank Richardson. As on the previous day, luncheon was had at Drake's Restaurant on Bancroft Way, Berkeley.

The afternoon session began with: Some Field and Banding Notes on Texas Nighthawks (illustrated), by Charles H. Feltes; followed by: Cliff Swallows at the Life Sciences Building, by Joseph Grinnell; Flightless Birds of the Mascarene Islands (illustrated), by the Marquess Hachisuka and Dr. G. D. Holwerda; The Wintering of White-throated Swifts in Alum Rock Park, by Gayle B. Pickwell; Soil Conservation and Wildlife, by Floyd H. Wymore; The Flycatchers of the Yosemite Region (imitated vocally), by Charles A. Harwell; and Bird Observations in Tierra del Fuego (illustrated), by Ynes Mexia.

On Saturday evening the annual dinner was held for members and their guests at Hotel Durant, with 114 persons in attendance. At the appropriate time, President Kinsey designated George Willett to serve as toastmaster. In lighter vein the latter called in turn on a dozen of those oldest in point of membership for brief reminiscences. All the responses were eagerly listened to, but no other with more attention than met that of Dr. Harry R. Painton, President of the Stanford Chapter, and one of the four young enthusiasts who founded the Cooper Ornithological Club forty-four years ago. Following the talks, there were two reels of motion pictures of birds in the mountains of eastern California by James B. Dixon, and a reel of the Sandhill Crane in Utah and Idaho by Dr. John W. Sugden.

On Sunday morning, a goodly number of the members met at 6:30 a.m. for an all-day field trip, planned for seeing shorebirds at the height of their migration through the San Francisco Bay region. A fine variety of species seen was reported by mid-afternoon, when those who took the trip joined less sturdy members at the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park. Here, Mrs. James Moffitt and Mrs. Robert T. Orr assisted Mr. Joseph Mailliard, Honorary Curator of Birds, in receiving the guests, while Mr. Moffitt, Curator of Ornithology and Mammalogy, and Mr. Orr, Assistant Curator of Mammalogy, showed specimens of the shorebirds which had been observed. A delicious tea was served by Mrs. Moffitt and Mrs. Orr.

Record is here made of the services of the very efficient committee which arranged all the many details of the meeting under the able chairmanship of William H. Behle.—HILDA W. GRINNELL.

GOVERNOR'S MEETING

The Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held in the O'Neil Room of the Faculty Club, University of California, at Berkeley, California, April 16, 1937. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m., with President George Willett in the chair, and the following members present: Clinton G. Abbott, Louis B. Bishop, H. W. Carriger, Frances Carter, W. Lee Chambers, J. S. Cooper, Joseph S. Dixon, Hilda W. Grinnell, Joseph Grinnell, Eric C. Kinsey, Alden H. Miller, Loye H. Miller, Sidney B. Peyton, Gayle B. Pickwell, Guy C. Rich, Howard Robertson, John McB. Robertson, Tracy I. Storer, George Willett, and Curtis Wright. Proxies were presented as follow: J. S. Appleton, Ralph Arnold, H. L. Coggins, Harry Harris, John G. Tyler, by Laura B. Law; Harold C. Bryant, W. K. Fisher, Joseph Mailliard, Harold Michener, by Joseph Grinnell; R. B. Cowles, by Loye H. Miller; Luther Little, by George Willett. Mrs. Guy C. Rich was present as a guest. Dr. Harry S. Painton, one of the

four original founders of the Cooper Ornithological Club, was also present as a guest, and when introduced by President Willett he gave a short reminiscence of the "fledgling" days of the Club.

Minutes of the fifteenth Annual Meeting were read and approved. Report of the Auditing Committee that the Business Managers' accounts for 1936 had been examined and found accurate was read and accepted on motion by Loye H. Miller, seconded by Guy C. Rich.

The Business Managers' report was submitted by John McB. Robertson. The year 1936 started with a balance of \$1,609.09 on January 1, and ended with a balance of \$2,677.80 on December 31. Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 23, "The Birds of Nevada," by Jean M. Linsdale, and No. 24, "Birds of the Charleston Mountains, Nevada," by A. J. van Rossem, were published during the year; and donations had been received from several members toward the cost of publishing during the coming year Avifauna No. 25, "The Natural History of Magpies," by Jean M. Linsdale. A gain of 38 new members and subscribers was made for the year. One Life Membership was received and the \$75.00 placed in the Endowment Fund. In this connection, the importance that Life Memberships play in earning interest for the benefit of the Club was emphasized by the Business Managers with the hope that more Life Members may be secured during the coming year.

The Chair appointed as Auditing Committee for 1937: Messrs. J. R. Pemberton, chairman, J. S. Cooper, and Luther Little.

The report of the Editors of the Condor was submitted as three separate reports. (1) The statistical accounting, presented by Joseph Grinnell, dealt with the last complete volume of the Condor, Volume XXXVIII, for 1936. Punctuality in appearance of the magazine was stressed, and the methods by which punctuality is attained, "with urgency to hurry," were given in interesting and enlightening detail. The 1936 edition of the Condor was 1350 copies, of which 1089 were mailed on date of publication, and the balance held for future sales. In the nature of a stimulative effect toward "greater or improved effort and achievement," a comparison between weights per volume and number of words per volume was made with the Auk. (2) Insurance of variety of content and interest to readers of the Condor was discussed by Alden H. Miller. Selection is necessarily limited by the kind of articles on hand, and, because the Condor has a following in both professional and amateur groups, the content of the magazine must be balanced to maintain values for both. The editors believe a fair balance is now attained, but critical comment was invited on the present set-up. (3) J. M. Linsdale submitted for con-

sideration by the Board of Governors the following subjects: (a) The printing of reviews of current ornithological works; (b) the maintenance of exchanges; (c) the new features to be introduced for the first time in Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 25, such as topic, colored frontispiece, full tone reproductions for some of the illustrations, and copies bound for a small extra cost. It was moved by Loye H. Miller, seconded by Guy C. Rich, that the three reports of the Editors be adopted as read. Louis B. Bishop asked that the motion be amended to include the appreciation and thanks of the Board of Governors to the Editorial Staff. The amended motion was carried unanimously.

The Chair called for discussion of the suggestion regarding the printing of reviews of current ornithological works. After considering this from many viewpoints, it was moved by Loye H. Miller, seconded by Howard Robertson, and duly carried, that for reviewing in the columns of the Condor the editors be requested to give preference to articles on western ornithology.

President Willett spoke of the recent death of Wright M. Pierce and asked Clinton G. Abbott and Alden H. Miller to prepare resolutions of sympathy for transmittal to Mrs. Pierce, and instructed the secretary to record said resolutions as part of the minutes of this meeting. The adoption of this procedure was moved by Howard Robertson, seconded by Tracy I. Storer, and unanimously carried. The following resolution was drawn up:

"Our meeting has been saddened by word that has just reached us of the passing, on April thirteenth, of one of the most beloved members of our group, Wright M. Pierce. Always a prominent and active member of the Cooper Club, Wright Pierce was, only a year ago, Chairman of the Arrangements Committee for the Annual Meeting. His genuine love of birds, his tireless enthusiasm in the field, his generous and hospitable nature, his surpassing skill as a wild-life photographer, and above all, his genial and sympathetic personality, will never be forgotten as long as there remains upon this Board a single member who had the privilege of counting Wright M. Pierce among his friends. Therefore,

"BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Governors of the Cooper Ornithological Club do hereby express our great sorrow at the death of Wright M. Pierce, and that we enter this resolution upon the minutes of this meeting and send a copy of it to Mrs. Pierce, together with an expression of our deepest sympathy in her great bereavement."

Recalling the death of George M. Wright in February, 1936, C. B. Lastreto requested that a copy of the resolutions passed at the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors be given to him for transmittal to Señor George Melendez, of San Salvador, the uncle of Mr. Wright. This request was seconded by Alden H. Miller, and it was duly carried.

The Chair read correspondence from Professor W. T. Shaw, of Fresno State College, inviting the Cooper Ornithological Club to hold its next annual meeting in Fresno. This invitation was

accepted, and the secretary was requested to forward to Professor Shaw the appreciation and acceptance of the Board of Governors, with the request that when selection of the Fresno local committee is made, the Northern Division of the Cooper Club be advised of its personnel. It was moved by Loye H. Miller, seconded by Louis B. Bishop, that the Board of Directors of the Cooper Ornithological Club appoint a committee to work with the Fresno local committee, and that the Northern Division of the Club assume responsibility for the scientific part of the program. This motion was unanimously carried.

Adjourned.—LAURA B. LAW, *Secretary*.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB, INCORPORATED

The business session was called to order in Room 4505, Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, California, at 9:30 a.m., April 16, 1937, with President Howard Robertson presiding and George Willett acting as Secretary.

The President appointed, as a committee to examine proxies, John McB. Robertson, Chairman, John T. Emlen, Jr., and Frank Richardson, and, as a nominating committee to present nominations for Directors for the ensuing year, Loye Miller, Chairman, Henry W. Carriger and J. S. Cooper.

The following were nominated for membership in the Club: Elizabeth M. Over, by Dale Arvey; Douglass H. Hubbard, Andrew McLain, and Dr. Leo F. Hadsall, by W. T. Shaw; Berton F. Jones, by Brighton C. Cain; and Mrs. Alice Quick and Lawrence W. Saylor, by Jean M. Linsdale.

On motion made, seconded and duly carried, the meeting then adjourned to meet in Room 2503, in the same building, at 9:00 a.m., April 17, 1937.

The adjourned business session was resumed at 9:00 a.m., April 17, 1937, in Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, California, with President Howard Robertson presiding. George Willett acted as Secretary.

The Proxy Committee reported that, of a total membership of 876, 85 members were present in person and 419 were represented by proxies. The Chairman therefore declared a quorum present.

The Nominating Committee reported the following nominations for Directors for the ensuing year: Howard Robertson, W. Lee Chambers, John McB. Robertson, J. R. Pemberton, Joseph Grinnell, Laura B. Law, Alden H. Miller, Jean M. Linsdale and George Willett. On motion made, seconded and duly carried, the nominations were closed and these Directors were declared elected.

A unanimous vote of appreciation was tendered the Arrangements Committee of the Northern Division of the Club for their management of the meeting.

The following names were presented for membership in the Club: Mrs. Dorothy C. Harts-horne and Mr. John H. Applegarth, by Wilbur V. Henry, and Mrs. Chas. B. Andrews, by Mrs. G. Earl Kelly.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.—GEORGE WILLETT, *Secretary*.

DIRECTORS' MEETING

A meeting of Board of Directors of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Incorporated, was held in Room 411, C. C. Chapman Building, 756 South Broadway, Los Angeles, California, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 30, 1937, with President Howard Robertson presiding and George Willett acting as secretary. The following members of the Board were present: W. Lee Chambers, Laura B. Law, J. R. Pemberton, Howard Robertson, John McB. Robertson, George Willett.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Howard Robertson; Senior Vice-President, Alden H. Miller; Junior Vice-President, J. S. Cooper; Secretary, George Willett; Assistant Secretary, Hilda W. Grinnell; Treasurer, John McB. Robertson; Business Manager, W. Lee Chambers; Editor, Joseph Grinnell; Associate Editors, Jean M. Linsdale and Alden H. Miller.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Board, and of the 1937 Annual Meeting of the Corporation, were read and approved.

Eleven new members were elected to the Corporation, from and including Kemuel Anderson, No. 948, to and including Lovett Thomas Turner, No. 958. Resignations were accepted from Mrs. Herbert Brown, Genevieve S. Burk, Miriam S. Faddis, Mervyn Annis Ortez, and Walter Raymond Salt. George R. Walker and Alfred Cookman were dropped from the roll for non-payment of dues.

The Treasurer reported the following members deceased since the last meeting of the Board: Mrs. Percival B. Coffin, F. H. Kennard, Wm. A. Strong, and Wright M. Pierce.

The Treasurer and Business Manager were authorized to rent and have control of a safe deposit box in the Security-First National Bank of Los Angeles.

The Business Manager announced the presentation to the Club by Mrs. Harry S. Swarth of one egg of the California Condor, from the Morcom collection (originally from the Taylor collection); complete sets of the Nidiologist and the Condor, bound, and volumes I, II, and III of the Condor, unbound. A unanimous vote of thanks was tendered Mrs. Swarth for her generosity.

Adjourned.—GEORGE WILLETT, *Secretary*.