

potent in its influence upon the growth of bird-study throughout the country. Not only have eminent men been members of that group, at least in their formative years, but important subsequent enterprises stemmed from it. Batchelder does not say as much, but the reader cannot escape this conclusion after reading his accurately written historical account. This includes biographies and early portraits of many of the men we know through our literature, that of the West as well as elsewhere; for example (besides Brewster), Henry W. Henshaw, J. A. Allen, Frank Bolles, John Murdoch, Outram Bangs, John E. Thayer, Bradford Torrey, Charles W. Townsend, Ralph Hoffmann; and, more recently, A. C. Bent, Glover M. Allen, John C. Phillips, Francis H. Allen, James L. Peters, and numerous others. Thus we westerners have here a repository of biographical data bearing here and there importantly upon our own special field of interest. Incidentally, we are afforded another fine demonstration of "New England" literary skill. Mostly, writers elsewhere seem too much in a hurry to heed the literary proprieties. Mr. Batchelder dedicates his book "To those friends of mine who appear in these pages but who will not read them."—J. G.

Two references to the systematics of birds of western North America have come to our attention that might escape the notice of students in this field. Both relate to flycatchers. These items are found in John T. Zimmer's "Studies of Peruvian Birds" that appear in the American Museum Novitates. In number 962 of the Novitates, of date November 18, 1937, opinion is expressed (pp. 12-13) that the western race (*hespericola*) of the Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), described by Oberholser from the Warner Valley of Oregon, appears not to warrant separation. Although no final conclusion is voiced, serious question is raised concerning the recognition of this subspecies. In number 963 of the same series, and of same date, more extended consideration is given (pp. 1-6) to the nomenclature of the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher of southeastern Arizona. It is claimed that the type of *Myiodynastes luteiventris vicinior* Cory, taken in Peru, is a migrant of the Arizona form, so that on the basis of priority this name replaces *M. l. swarthi* van Rossem for the race occurring in the United States.—A. H. M.

## MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

### NORTHERN DIVISION

NOVEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, November 18, 1937, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Kin-

sey in the chair and about sixty members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for October were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division were read. Names proposed for membership were: Grace Tompkins Sargent (Mrs. M. C. Sargent), Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, California, and Jane Nold, 83 Castro Street, San Leandro, California, both by E. L. Sumner through the Western Bird Banding Association.

Mr. Test read a letter from Major Allan Brooks dealing with the question of a possible closed season on duck hunting and suggesting other methods for waterfowl restoration. A bulletin issued by the Audubon Societies, entitled "Thirst on the Land," by William Vogt, was reviewed by Mr. Test. This pamphlet decries present wasteful drainage practices and suggests better methods for use of the land and water. After prolonged discussion of a number of the problems involved, it was moved and carried that the Northern Division also go on record as favoring a three-year closed season on all duck hunting.

Mr. Howard Twining spoke on "The Natural History of the Sierra Nevada Rosy Finch," the results of two summers of observation in Virginia Canyon, north of Tuolumne Meadows. Daily behavior, foraging habits, influence of predators, and a full account of breeding activities, nesting and development of the young, were presented in a pattern which might well be applied to the study of other bird species. Of the possible factors suggested to explain the restriction of this species to high altitudes, the most potent would seem to be safety of breeding places in summer, winter competition of other species at lower levels, and the bountiful food supply exposed on bare rock surfaces by slipping snow. Lantern slides fully illustrated the detailed observations.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

DECEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, December 23, 1937, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Kinsey in the chair and twenty-five members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for November were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division were read. An application for membership was read from Ross Hardy, 429 North Second East Street, Price, Utah, endorsed by William H. Behle.

Mr. Emlen, who is seeking an ecological explanation of the winter distribution of the crow in California, asked for observations on the presence or absence of the species and left questionnaire forms to be filled out by members having such information. Mr. Pease read a set of resolutions voicing the objections of the

Cooper Club to possible granting by the Berkeley City Council of a petition to allow shooting of ducks on bay waters adjacent to the Aquatic Park and Game Refuge, within the three-mile limit covered by the present ordinance against discharge of firearms within the city limits. It was unanimously voted that the resolutions be adopted and copies sent to City Manager Hollis R. Thompson. President Kinsey appointed as a committee to nominate officers of the club for the coming year: Alden H. Miller, chairman, H. W. Carriger and Robert T. Orr.

Many members contributed to the evening's discussion of field notes. Mr. Grinnell, who had recently returned from an extended trip through the southern California deserts, mentioned some of the disadvantages of rapid travel by automobile but brought out one distinct recompense, the quick succession and sharp contrast of many different types of country and the glimpses afforded of the occupants peculiar to these different habitats. As an example, he cited the distribution of the Phainopepla and its relation to the principal food supply, mistletoe berries, whether in oak, mesquite or cottonwood trees. Mr. Bond reported on the status of the raptorial birds of Lava Beds National Monument, stressing the effect of severe winter weather early in 1937 in greatly reducing the numbers of hawks and owls by cutting off the food supply that consisted of field mice. Shooting by the Biological Survey and by farmers also had its effect. Mr. Dyer made the valuable suggestion that where land is occupied by tenant farmers, the terms of their leases might be made to include protection of hawks and owls. Mr. Emlen reported a good season for ducks and geese in the Sacramento Valley, both showing an increase in numbers over former years and benefiting greatly by the high water throughout the valley.

Mr. Covell announced that the new list of the waterfowl of Lake Merritt, Oakland, published jointly by the Metropolitan Oakland Committee and the Lake Merritt Breakfast Club, was ready for distribution. A member who is in correspondence with a bird student in Wyoming reported the occurrence of the European Starling on the University of Wyoming campus, at Laramie. This record upsets the theory that the species would not extend its range west of the one-hundredth meridian and leads one to wonder whether the Pacific coast will long remain free of the starling problem. Mr. Dyer described the behavior of an injured Black-bellied Plover entrusted to his care by Mr. Kinsey. This bird's wing, which had been broken at the wrist joint, was taped up by Dr. Reynolds and will probably heal in a fairly normal position.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION

NOVEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Sunday, November 21, 1937, at 2 p. m., at the aviaries of W. J. Sheffler, 535 New York St., Hawthorne, with President Little in the chair and about sixty members and guests present. Minutes of the Southern Division for October were read and approved. As there was no other business to transact, the business meeting was adjourned and the members were given plenty of time to inspect the wonderful collection of birds, both foreign and native, that Mr. Sheffler has in the cages.

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

DECEMBER.—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 Tuesday, December 28, 1937, at 8:00 p. m., with President Little in the chair and about eighty members and guests present. Minutes of the Southern Division for November were read and approved. Minutes of the Northern Division for October and November were read by title only. Mr. Michener told of a Desert Sparrow Hawk that had been trapped in Pasadena that day. It had first been trapped early in the summer and released at Beaumont; it was trapped again two weeks ago and released at Etiwanda. This time it was to be released at Oceanside. Mr. Glassell told of a strange bird that had been reported from near Catalina Island, described as a cross between a pheasant and a gull, with a bright red bill. Mr. Abbott of San Diego, told of a similar bird seen near San Diego, except that it was described as a cross between a rooster and a gull. It was evident from the accounts that the birds were Red-billed Tropic Birds. President Little appointed Dr. Loye Miller, George Willett and Howard Robertson on the committee to nominate officers for the Southern Division for the coming year.

J. R. Pemberton, the speaker of the evening, presented motion pictures taken on two different trips down the west coast of Lower California to Guadalupe Island, Magdalena Bay, and around into the Gulf of California.

These interesting pictures showed the herd of elephant seals on Guadalupe Island and the colonies of sea birds occurring on the different islands along the coast of Lower California. The films of the trip into the Gulf showed the nesting and courtship antics of three species of boobies, the nesting ground of the Heermann Gull, the natives of Tiburon Island and the home of the fish-eating bats. Mr. Pemberton stated that he was leaving about January 15 on another trip down the west coast of Mexico and Central America, and promised the Club a showing of the films taken on this trip.

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