

to enjoy alive. The major fault with the jay and crow shooting is that it often is done in the other birds' breeding season—with no inconsiderable margin of hazard to other things, both game and non-game, that fly or run. If there must be "vermin", let us have an open season on these so-called predators, regulated to coincide with the season on "game" species!—J. G.

Through the years we have witnessed a long series of impressive projects undertaken in the general natural history field, usually by groups of persons or by organized agencies. These often have been announced extensively—reams of outlines and prospectuses issued. Continuance of actual work on a well-considered plan has in some cases been of adequate duration, leading to genuinely worthy results, of lasting value to science. On the other hand, all too frequently, serious activity has been brief-lived; announcements of "progress" have been less and less frequent; finally the idea of "something under way" has been lost to our consciousness—save as through delving among old papers it may be recalled to mind. Especially do "cooperative" enterprises now appear, in the light of past observation, as projects of dubious promise. It looks as though, in the human species, *individual* enterprise, opportunity sought out by the individual and taken advantage of through individually exercised industry and intelligence, most often makes for real accomplishment of aims. *We are not ants!* Our evolutionary line has not led us into that form of social behavior. So, with ornithological work, in whatever subfield, let the person who does not happen to be "attached," take heart; there is yet hope of distinguished success for the free-lance worker!—J. G.

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 24, 1938, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Emlen in the chair and about 65 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for February were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division were read. Richard G. Dahl, 5061 Congress Avenue, Oakland, was proposed for membership by Alden H. Miller. President Emlen announced a regular meeting of the Northern Division in April, and also spoke of a lecture to be given by Dr. A. A. Allen in San Jose on April 13, under the auspices of the Audubon Society. Mrs. Kelly exhibited sheets of wildlife stamps and spoke of the desirability of their sale now, this being Wildlife Week, for the support of the Wildlife Federation.

Mr. Grinnell reported on the latest publication, Volume I of "The Handbook of British Birds,"

by Witherby, Jourdain, Ticehurst and Tucker. Citing model examples from this new work, Mr. Grinnell emphasized the desideratum of simple, concise phraseology in expressing the manner of occurrence of birds.

Mr. Miller initiated the field observations with a report of the arrival of Cliff Swallows at the Life Sciences Building this morning, March 24. Mr. Brown reported a Rough-winged Swallow seen at the Berkeley Stadium this morning. Mr. Durham spoke of the continued presence until recently, of numbers of various waterbirds at Isabel Point, Contra Costa County. In a report upon many dead birds, including numerous gulls, found along a stretch of the Berkeley waterfront at the end of the 1937 duck season, Mr. Sibley emphasized the great need for control of shooting along the Bay.

Mr. E. Lowell Sumner, Jr., the scheduled speaker of the evening, was unavoidably absent. Mr. Joseph Dixon, kindly assuming the responsibility, gave an adequate and interesting account of the Third North American Wildlife Conference, recently held in Baltimore. He dwelt upon the commendable work of the Hudson Bay Company in beaver conservation, and sketched the variety of other subjects discussed. The significance of the conference as a meeting place for all wildlife agencies, and the interest demonstrated, afford definite encouragement even to conservationists who are naturally pessimistic.

Adjourned.—FRANK RICHARDSON, *Acting Secretary*.

APRIL.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, April 28, 1938, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Emlen in the chair and about 130 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for March were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division were read in part. Names proposed for membership were: C. M. Goethe, Capital National Bank Building, Sacramento, California, by J. Grinnell; Eastham Guilo, Papeete, Tahiti, by Eric C. Kinsey; Aldo Starker Leopold, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, by Alden H. Miller; Leonard Penhale, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, by Robert T. Orr.

Mr. Albert Wolfson announced that a number of Oregon Juncos, which normally migrate northward in April, had been held over and would be released in breeding condition toward the end of May, to determine whether or not they would then migrate. These birds have been marked with a large feather attached to the upper tail coverts, and persons seeing any Juncos so marked are requested to report the occurrence, including if possible the color of the feather, to Mr. Wolfson at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. Mr. Miller

reported briefly on the Thirteenth Annual Meeting, held at Fresno, April 15 to 17.

Mrs. Kelly called attention to the fact that this was the time to see migrating shorebirds at Alameda, mentioning particularly the Dowitchers in full breeding plumage. Mr. Sibley added that the Ruddy Turnstone was also present. He had recorded an Anthony Green Heron in Strawberry Canyon, April 23, a new vagrant species for the campus list of birds. Mr. Dyer reported the arrival of Bullock Orioles in southern Alameda County on April 6. Mr. Lloyd Ingles said that records he had kept at Chico, California, showed the arrival of the orioles on April 9 or 10 for five consecutive years. Mr. Hopkins announced the project to publish a list of the birds of the Lake Merced neighborhood, San Francisco, by the Oakland Ornithological Club. He reported no damage to bird life so far, from the reclamation work on the shores of Lake Merced, where 176 species have been recorded.

As speaker of the evening, Mr. Ernest I. Dyer showed several reels of motion pictures of California birds. These included a number of sections to be added to his "photo-monographs" on the Road-runner and the California Thrasher. Natural color photographs of American Egrets near Gustine were especially beautiful. A heronry in oak trees near Stockton contained 90 Great Blue Herons. Pictures of California Condors, taken at the boundary between San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties, included some excellent close-ups of a young bird which had been made to spread its wings. There were many studies of birds in the gardens of Mr. Dyer and Dr. Eric Reynolds.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

MARCH.—About 65 members and guests attended the regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club, held at the Los Angeles Museum on Tuesday, March 22, 1938. President McCoy called the meeting to order at 8 p.m. The minutes of the Southern Division for February were read and approved; the minutes of the Northern Division were read by title.

Mr. John McB. Robertson announced the preparation of the new roster of members which is to appear in the May issue of the *Condor*, and requested that members report any changes of address to him by April 15. He also stressed the importance of members sending signed proxies to Mrs. Grinnell if they do not expect to be present in person at the annual meeting in Fresno on April 15.

Mr. McCoy announced that the Avicultural Society will hold its annual meeting at the Bird Farm on Catalina Island on Sunday, April 3, and extended an invitation to Cooper Club members

to join the party. Those wishing to go were asked to contact Mrs. Edna Parts, of 3628 Revere St., Los Angeles, to obtain tickets at the reduced rate extended to the group. Mr. McCoy also announced that Dr. A. A. Allen will give two programs under the auspices of the Pacific Geographic Society while in southern California. One of the members present indicated the dates of these programs as April 19 in Pasadena and April 21 in Los Angeles.

President McCoy then introduced Mr. Robert T. Moore, the speaker of the evening, who presented "A Zoological Reconnaissance of the Barranca del Cobre, Southwest Chihuahua, Mexico." Mr. Moore accompanied his talk with moving pictures and colored lantern slides, illustrating the characteristic biota of the different life zones through which his party passed from the cactus plains at Navajoa near sea level, in extreme southern Sonora, to the highest point of the Mexican Plateau at 8500 feet altitude, near the northern rim of the Barranca del Cobre. The extensive collections of plants and animals taken in this and neighboring areas in the past five years have led to some tentative conclusions regarding the limit of the northward extension of the Tropical Zone on the west coast of Mexico. Mr. Moore suggested that the presence of certain so-called "tropical forms" of bird-life in southern Sonora and northern Sinaloa should not be used as proof that the Tropical Zone extends that far north. He indicated that certain of these tropical forms are tolerant of cold and have been found nesting at high altitudes. Examples were cited of the Thick-billed Parrot nesting at 10,000 feet on Mt. Mohinora in southwestern Chihuahua, of Military Macaws and Finch Parrots nesting at 5000 feet, and of Long-tailed Jays at 4000 feet. He pointed out that other factors, such as the extent of typically Sonoran bird forms southward and of typically tropical plant forms northward, should be considered before the limits of the Tropical Zone can be definitely determined.

The great Barranca del Cobre, more than a mile deep and many miles wide, was shown to rival our own Grand Canyon in grandeur. The contrast between this extremely arid canyon and the short humid canyons of the western slope of the great Mexican Plateau was briefly discussed. Interesting views of the native Tarahumare Indians of the Mexican Plateau and higher sierra, including the first moving pictures of the celebration of their annual religious festival, "El Dia de San Isidro," added to the well-rounded picture of the area.

After Mr. Moore's talk the meeting was open for discussion, and the speaker was called upon to answer several questions.

A movement to adjourn was made and seconded, but forgotten as Dr. Bishop arose to announce that certain ornithologists had been pres-

ent at the "arrival of the swallows" at the San Juan Capistrano Mission on March 19, and he thought the club should know the truth about the story. Mr. McCoy then indicated that he had been at the Mission from Wednesday, March 16, until Friday morning, March 18, during which time he saw as many as 25 to 30 swifts but no swallows. He was replaced Friday afternoon by Mr. Cantwell. Mr. Cantwell, called upon for a report of his experiences, said that on the afternoon of Friday, March 18, he saw two Cliff Swallows among the numerous swifts, and that on March 19 he saw three. He did not see any large flock of swallows, though rumor was rife that a flock had been seen. He was present at the broadcast on Saturday morning when the announcer declared "the swallows are here," though the Father at the Mission would make no such assertion. Other members indicated that they, too, had been at the mission on March 19 and that undoubtedly many persons were mistaking the swifts for swallows.

Dr. Wood announced that Mr. Kinsey from the Northern Division was present, and asked him to say a few words. Mr. Kinsey spoke of the coming meeting in Fresno and urged all Southern Division members to attend. There being no further discussion or comments, the forgotten motion for adjournment was recalled and adopted.

Adjourned.—HILDEGARDE HOWARD, *Secretary*.

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

The thirteenth annual meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held Friday, April 15, to Sunday, April 17, 1938, at Fresno, California, under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture and Biology of Fresno State College. On Friday morning, following the registration of members and visitors, the meeting was called to order in Room 200, McLane Hall by President John T. Emlen, Jr., of the Northern Division. Frank W. Thomas, President of the College, welcomed the group and response was made by Loye H. Miller, representing the Southern Division.

In the absence of Howard Robertson, President of the Corporation, Chairman Emlen called upon Alden H. Miller, senior Vice-President, to preside over a brief business session, with George Willett as secretary. At this time two committees were appointed by the Chair: to check proxies, John McB. Robertson, chairman, W. Lee Chambers and Hilda W. Grinnell; to present nominations for directors for the coming year, John G. Tyler, chairman, Herbert N. McCoy and John T. Emlen, Jr. Adjournment was then taken until Saturday morning.

Papers read at the opening session were: Natural and experimental modification of color in *Colaptes*, by F. H. Test; The game codes of Germany and Italy, by T. I. Storer; Birds of an Arctic-Alpine nesting habitat on Mount Baker,

Washington, by W. T. Shaw; Notes on winter behavior of the Merriam turkey, by A. Starcker Leopold; and Adaptation of soil conservation practices to wildlife management, by A. C. Hawbecker.

Papers read at Friday afternoon's session were: Seasonal movements of valley quail, by J. T. Emlen, Jr.; Remarks on the redpolls, *Acanthis linaria* and *Acanthis hornemanni*, by L. B. Bishop; Game management in California, by H. C. Davis; The comparative embryology of the cormorant, by J. B. Price; the air mattress of the brown pelican, by F. Richardson; The needs of oak-tree insect-pest control methods non-detrimental to bird life, by C. B. Lastreto; and The relationship of *Junco caniceps* and *Junco oreganus*, by A. H. Miller.

From 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. the Department of Agriculture and Biology held open house and the bird and mammal collections were inspected under the guidance of George W. Graves and staff members and students of the Department.

On Friday evening the Board of Governors and Directors met for dinner at Hotel Fresno, following which the annual meeting of the Board was held. (See p. 191.)

On Saturday morning, April 16, 1938, members met in Room 200, McLane Hall, Fresno State College, Fresno, California, at 9:30 a.m., for the adjourned business session, with Howard Robertson, President of the Board of Directors, in the chair. Secretary Willett read minutes of the last business session. The proxy committee reported that, of a total membership of 876, 81 members were present and 411 were represented by proxies. The chairman therefore declared a quorum to be present.

The nominating committee reported the following nominations for directors for the ensuing year: John S. Appleton, W. Lee Chambers, Joseph Grinnell, Jean M. Linsdale, Alden H. Miller, J. R. Pemberton, Howard Robertson, John McB. Robertson and George Willett. Upon motion by Loye Miller, seconded by Joseph Dixon, and duly carried, the nominations were declared closed and the above nominees declared elected.

There being no more business to transact, President Robertson announced the business session adjourned and at 9:45 a.m. invited Professor Shaw, chairman of the arrangements committee, to preside over the presentation of papers.

The following papers were read: The songs of mockingbirds, by Loye Miller; Some Alaskan gyrfalcons, by L. B. Bishop; Nuptial note of the Anna hummingbird, by T. L. Rodgers; The Texas nighthawk in the breeding season, by Gayle Pickwell; and The California cowbird and its relation to certain other species, by J. G. Tyler.

Papers presented on Saturday afternoon were: Some nesting birds at Huntington Lake, Fresno County, by A. E. Culbertson; Some observations

on the Sierra Nevada rosy finch, by H. Twining; Ocean waifs and what they mean for distribution, by J. Grinnell; The starling and the West, by J. T. Nichols (read by title); and June on the tundra, by A. A. Allen. Then followed a much appreciated offering not scheduled on the program—the presentation by Dr. Allen of motion picture film accompanied by sound. This was made possible by the cooperation of the Fresno State College and the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in securing a sound-producing machine from San Francisco. A delighted audience heard the cries of the limpkin and the calls of the ivory-billed woodpecker and of the whooping crane; also those of other birds of lesser degree of rarity.

Throughout the sessions ample time had been allowed for the discussion of papers, and the volunteer remarks stimulated, added materially to the value of the program. Among the many contributors in this manner were Stanley Jewett of Oregon, and Theodore S. Palmer of Washington, D. C.

On Saturday evening, 105 members and guests gathered at Omar Khayyam's in the Sequoia Hotel building for the annual dinner. The genius of George Willett as toastmaster made the responses especially happy ones.

On Easter Sunday, April 17, a field trip was taken to the Mendota overflow lands, west of Fresno. At noon, lunch was served by the Fresno Natural History Club to a group of fifty enthusiastic bird watchers. By one o'clock cars were leaving the group, each one containing departing visitors grateful to the Fresno members for their hospitality. Our memories include communion with old friends, recollections of perfect weather, rainbow acres of wildflowers, white egrets, stilts and avocets among the ponds, and overhead the rare sight of numbers of Swainson hawks in migration.

Arrangements for the first annual meeting of the Cooper Club to be held in the "Fresno district" were carried out by the following efficient committee: William T. Shaw (chairman), A. E. Culbertson, Hildegard Howard, Alden H. Miller, John G. Tyler.—H. W. G.

GOVERNOR'S MEETING

The seventeenth annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held in the Red Room of Hotel Fresno, Fresno, California, on April 15, 1938. President Willett called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m., with the following members present: J. S. Appleton, Louis B. Bishop, W. Lee Chambers, Joseph S. Dixon, John T. Emlen, Jr., Hilda W. Grinnell, Joseph Grinnell, Hildegard Howard, Eric C. Kinsey, C. B. Lastreto, Herbert N. McCoy, Harold Michener, Alden H. Miller, Loye H. Miller, Gayle B. Pickwell, Guy C. Rich, Howard Robertson, John McB. Robertson, Tracy I. Storer, E.

Lowell Sumner, Jr., John G. Tyler, and George Willett.

Proxies were presented as follows: Amelia S. Allen, Harold C. Bryant, Henry W. Carriger, Frances Carter, James S. Cooper, Walter K. Fisher, Harry Harris, Jean M. Linsdale, Joseph Mailliard, held by J. Grinnell; Herbert L. Coggins, Curtis Wright, by H. W. Grinnell; Luther Little by George Willett; Sidney B. Peyton by W. Lee Chambers.

Guests present were: Arthur A. Allen, Stanley G. Jewett, Theodore S. Palmer, William T. Shaw, and Selma Werner.

Minutes of the sixteenth annual meeting of the Board of Governors were read and approved. The chairman then called for a report of the Auditing Committee appointed at that meeting, namely, J. S. Cooper, Luther Little, J. R. Pemberton, chairman. In the absence of all three members, Howard Robertson read a letter from Luther Little stating that in company with W. Lee Chambers he had personally checked the securities of the Club as listed in the audit for 1937. This letter is appended to these minutes.

President Willett then called for the report of the Business Manager, W. Lee Chambers, and of the Treasurer, John McB. Robertson, which report is appended to these minutes. Alden H. Miller, seconded by Joseph S. Dixon, moved that the report be accepted and placed on file. The motion was unanimously carried.

President Willett then called upon the Editors to present their report. Alden H. Miller, Associate Editor, complied with a report upon illustrations in the *Condor*, which absorb twenty-five to thirty per cent of the cost of publishing the magazine. He was followed by J. Grinnell, Editor, reporting upon manuscripts submitted, methods of selection of material, and contents of volume 39 of the *Condor*, for 1937. The two reports are appended to these minutes. A motion to adopt these reports was made by J. S. Appleton, seconded by Louis B. Bishop, and unanimously carried. Mr. Grinnell stated that the biennial roster of the Club is now in press, to appear in May, and he circulated copies of the proof.

Mr. Chambers brought before the meeting the fact that the American Ornithologists' Union plans to meet in California in 1939 and asked whether action should be taken at this time to indicate to the A. O. U. the desire of the Cooper Club to aid in making the third visit of the A. O. U. to the Pacific Coast a memorable occasion. Mr. Grinnell stated that President Friedmann of the A. O. U. had already appointed Alden H. Miller as Californian representative of the Union to arrange for the 1939 meeting and that Mr. Miller is planning to attend the Washington meeting in October. He moved that Alden H. Miller be appointed to act as representing also the Board of Governors of the Cooper Club at

the Washington meeting of the A. O. U. and that he be given full power to act for the Board. Motion seconded by Loye H. Miller and unanimously carried.

Dr. Rich moved that a vote of thanks be extended to the local committee for the arrangements which had made the Fresno meeting so pleasant for visiting members. Motion seconded by Mr. Michener and unanimously carried.

Mr. Lastrero reminded the Governors that at the morning session of the Cooper Club, Mr. C. A. Harwell had reported the request of the Fresno Chamber of Commerce for aid in their attempt to discourage the killing of useful and harmless birds by such organizations as the Hanford Chapter of the "Future Farmers of America," whose list of killings in a "vermin control" campaign was published in the "Fresno Bee" of March 20, 1938.

Following comment by Stanley Jewett, Lowell Sumner, Howard Robertson, Louis B. Bishop, and others, Tracy I. Storer moved and Loye H. Miller seconded a motion that the Chair appoint a committee to consider the problem and make recommendations. Motion unanimously carried. President Willett announced the appointment of C. B. Lastrero, J. G. Tyler and L. H. Miller, chairman. [This committee drew up a set of resolutions and determined a course of action approved by a quorum of the Board of Directors, meeting just prior to the annual dinner. Their report is appended to these minutes.]

A motion was made by Howard Robertson, seconded by Loye Miller, and duly carried, that the 1939 Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club be held in southern California.

President Willett then announced the next matter of business to be the election of officers for the coming year. He asked permission to vacate the chair temporarily in order that he might himself nominate as his successor Joseph Grinnell. This permission granted, the nomination was seconded by Dr. Bishop. Upon motion by Mr. Lastrero, seconded by Howard Robertson, unanimously favorable action was taken. President Willett declared Mr. Grinnell elected and offered him the Chair. Mr. Grinnell appealed to Howard Robertson, attorney for the Corporation; who ruled that the new chairman should take office at the close of the meeting, not sooner.

John G. Tyler was nominated for Vice-President of the Board by Alden H. Miller, seconded by Loye H. Miller. Mr. Tyler was unanimously elected. Alden H. Miller was nominated for Secretary of the Board by Dr. Rich, seconded by Mr. Appleton, and unanimously elected.

Howard Robertson moved that the present editors, J. Grinnell, J. M. Linsdale, and Alden H. Miller, be appointed to continue in office, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. The motion was seconded and duly carried.

The business session of the Board being concluded, the Chair called upon the three visiting members of the Club from without the State for remarks. Each of the three, A. A. Allen of Ithaca, N. Y., Stanley Jewett of Portland, Oregon, and Theodore S. Palmer of Washington, D. C., made appropriate remarks, the last-named in reminiscence of the first Californian meeting of the A. O. U., in 1903.

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

DIRECTORS' MEETING

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held in the lounge of the Sequoia Hotel, 931 Van Ness Avenue, Fresno, California, at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 16, 1938. The following members of the Board were present: John S. Appleton, W. Lee Chambers, Joseph Grinnell, Alden H. Miller, John McB. Robertson, George Willett.

Senior Vice-President Alden H. Miller presided at the meeting and George Willett acted as Secretary. By unanimous vote, the reading of minutes of the last meeting was deferred until a later meeting.

On motion of John S. Appleton, seconded by W. Lee Chambers, and duly carried, 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. Each officer present so elected accepted his office.

The following resolution, presented by Loye H. Miller, C. B. Lastrero and John G. Tyler, was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, it has been learned that the San Joaquin Valley Council of the State Chamber of Commerce, at its meeting in Fresno, April 15, has expressed itself as opposed to certain phases of the competitive vermin killing contests by youths of the Fresno area, particular danger being recognized in the possible killing by the boys of species of birds valuable to the State, and

WHEREAS, it is felt that education regarding the habits and economic relations of wild life should precede the efforts at reduction of the numbers of any species,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that we, the Cooper Ornithological Club, do hereby commend the attitude taken by the San Joaquin Valley Council and that the secretary be instructed to send copies of this resolution to the Secretary of the said Council and to the Conservation Committee of the State Chamber.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.—(Signed) GEORGE WILLETT, *Secretary.*