

NOTES AND NEWS

The fifty-sixth stated meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, held in Washington, D. C., October 17-21, 1938, brought out the largest attendance in the records of the Union. The program of fifty-eight papers was noteworthy for the high average quality of the contributions. A new feature, much to be commended, was a symposium on "The Problem of the Individual *vs.* the Species in Bird Study." Led by Herbert Friedmann, the symposium was contributed to by Francis H. Herrick, G. K. Noble, Margaret M. Nice, Frederick C. Lincoln and N. Tinbergen. Mr. Waldo L. McAtee asked to be relieved of the duties of treasurer of the Union after his many years of service, and Mr. Rudyerd Boulton was elected to this office. Three vacancies on the Council were filled by the election of W. L. McAtee, Robert T. Moore and John T. Zimmer. Otherwise, the officers remain the same. One Fellow was elected, Ira N. Gabrielson, of Washington, D. C. Eight members were elected: Herbert G. Deignan of Washington, D. C.; S. Gilbert Emilio of Salem, Mass.; Thomas T. McCabe, of Berkeley, Calif.; Harold Michener of Pasadena, Calif.; Gayle B. Pickwell of San Jose, Calif.; Austin L. Rand of New York City; Alexander Frank Skutch of Baltimore, Md.; and E. Lowell Sumner, Jr., of San Francisco, Calif. The next meeting, which had already been set for California, was announced for June 19-23, 1939, in the San Francisco Bay area, with headquarters in Berkeley.—A. H. M.

It has become almost a yearly custom since 1929 to acknowledge the assistance of Miss Selma Werner in preparing the annual index of the *CONDOR*. It is a pleasure again to do so this year. Her continued efforts are especially appreciated by the editors who have learned to expect a sheaf of neat and carefully prepared index copy for each November issue.

"Formation of geographic races is probably the most usual method of differentiation of species both in the animal and plant kingdom . . ." (Dobzhansky, *Genetics and the Origin of Species*, 1937, p. 47). There should be no criticism of the attention given geographic races of birds, but only of the methods employed in studying them.—A. H. M.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

AUGUST.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, California, on Tuesday,



Fig. 70. Wilson C. Hanna, member of the Cooper Ornithological Club since 1902, and contributor of many articles on the nesting habits of birds.

August 30, 1938, at 8 p.m., with about 180 members and guests in attendance. In the absence of the president, Mr. George Willett presided.

The minutes of the Southern Division for July were read and approved; those of the Northern Division were read by title only. Three applications for membership were read as follows: Louis M. Moos, Soil Conservation Service, Great Falls, Montana, proposed by Mrs. N. Edward Ayer; Mrs. Caroline Wells Rogers, 1006 McConnell Avenue, Route 4, Santa Rosa, Calif., by John McB. Robertson; and James S. Bancroft, 64 Sharon Avenue, Oakland, Calif., by Ralph W. Chaney.

Mr. Willett announced the marriage of two Cooper Club members, Laura Law to Harold H. Bailey, and asked all of their friends to sign the note of congratulation from the Southern Division of the Club. Mr. Willett further called attention to several new publications of interest to ornithologists: Dickey and van Rossem's *Birds of El Salvador*, Oberholser's *Bird Life of Louisiana*, Bent's *Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey*, Part 2, and two contributions from the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Mary Erickson's paper on the wren-tits and Lawrence Compton's on the pterylosis of the *Falconiformes*.

There being no further business, Mr. Willett introduced Mr. John S. Garth. Mr. Garth outlined the itinerary of the 1938 Hancock Expedition, which went to the Galapagos Islands, the islands of Peru, and then inland to Colombia over the summit of the Andes. The remainder of his talk accompanied an excellent reel of moving pictures of birds seen on this trip and on that of the year previous. Of outstanding interest were the exceptionally fine views of Andean Condors in flight. These were taken with a powerful lens so that the birds could be seen very distinctly and the characteristic white wing patch was easily discernible. Mr. Garth told of the great interest of the native people in these birds. On the expedition's return, and while carrying a captive live condor, the party stopped to watch a native funeral procession go by, only to have the procession break up to look at the condor.

Other interesting scenes included slow motion pictures of the flight of the frigate bird, views of several species of boobies and the dance of the Blue-footed Booby, pictures of the Galapagos Hawks, and finally impressive shots of the tremendous extent of nesting birds on the guano islands of Peru. The White-breasted Cormorants were shown by the tens of thousands, nesting close together in long rows, and completely covering a large area. Even more abundant than the cormorants on these islands are the Piqueros, or Peruvian Boobies. However, because of their habit of nesting on inaccessible rocky shores, the photographs of this colony were less impressive than those of the cormorants.

Following the bird pictures, Mr. Garth introduced Mr. Granville Ashcraft of the expedition, who described the birds collected on the trip and showed the skins of the most outstanding species. Those present were invited to inspect the specimens at the close of the program.

The latter part of the program was devoted to a film entitled "Seabourne Treasure", dealing with the dredging and oceanographic work of the Hancock Expeditions and including many interesting microscopic views of marine life. Mr. Garth accompanied the pictures with explanatory remarks regarding the work.

Adjourned.—HILDEGARDE HOWARD, *Secretary*.

NORTHERN DIVISION

AUGUST.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, August 25, 1938, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Emlen in the chair and sixty-two members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for July were read and approved. Names proposed for membership were: Elmo Stevenson, La Grande, Oregon, and Harvey Irvin Fisher, Berkeley, both by Alden H. Miller. Mr. Grinnell reviewed an exceedingly recent

book, which he had received only an hour before, "The California Woodpecker and I—a study in comparative zoology; in which are set forth numerous facts and reflections by one of us about both of us," by William E. Ritter.

Field reports were opened by Mr. John Cushing, who had spent three luckless days in fishing at a lake in British Columbia, only to see an Osprey strike the water and rise with a fish in each claw. Mr. Benson matched the fish story with the report of no less than five hummingbirds pursuing a Mourning Dove in Hamilton Gulch, August 25. Mr. Hall added a bit of hummingbird behavior observed in the Snake Mountains, Nevada. A Red-naped Sapsucker was seen to chase a Broad-tailed Hummingbird which had evidently been attracted by the birch sap trickling from a series of perforations 12 feet up on the tree. Mr. Dyer had recently seen a colored motion picture of a Black-chinned Hummingbird eating sap from holes made in a cottonwood by a Red-breasted Sapsucker. He also commented on the great numbers of pheasants killed by automobiles. Fifty-eight dead birds, 37 of them within five miles, were seen by him on the west side highway in the Sacramento Valley, between Williams and Willows.

The principal speaker, Mr. Alden H. Miller, presented a most interesting account of "Isolation and its Effects in the Genus *Junco*." Isolation he characterized as the divining rod for the seeking of new subspecies. However, rather than the cause leading to differentiation of species and subspecies, it must be considered as the factor which preserves differences and makes possible their accumulation over a long period of time. The whole problem of isolation then resolves itself into the effectiveness of conditions which insure breeding of a population with its own kind, even though it may socialize with other groups on the wintering grounds. Among the 21 forms of juncos found in North America and Central America, interbreeding, though it may take place under both natural and experimental conditions, is usually prevented by some degree of isolation. Three principal types were described: (1) Spatial isolation, in which members on one side of a large habitable area are effectively separated from those on the other side by the intervening population pressure; (2) ecological isolation, where an uninhabitable area forms the barrier; (3) psychological barriers, where two forms in the same area seem to breed with their own kind by preference. More perfect cases of isolation are those in which there is never any contact with an outside race. Isolation at one time effective may be broken down by changes in physiographic conditions. At the close of the meeting, Mr. Miller answered questions and demonstrated specimens of some of the types of juncos he had mentioned.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.