

## NOTES AND NEWS

It is not too late to plan to attend the Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, March 22 to 24, in Los Angeles. Headquarters will be at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, and the presentation of papers will begin there on Friday morning, the 22nd. The annual banquet will be held on Saturday evening, and on Sunday there are to be field trips. The spring season this year should especially attract naturalists to southern California where, we are informed, the flowering of desert plants is especially profuse.—A. H. M.

In a recent news bulletin of the Department of the Interior there is announced the transfer of the Wildlife Division of the National Park Service to the Bureau of Biological Survey. Policies of this Division are now to be guided jointly by the Park Service and the Bureau of Biological Survey. Special pains are taken in the announcement to assure that there will be continuance of the Park Service's admirable policies of wildlife preservation. In the confusion sometimes prevailing in a bureaucratic system, it is well to have reiterated such clear statements as these regarding the complete protection of natural conditions. We sincerely hope that the ideals expressed may be kept in sharp focus under the new organization.—A. H. M.

The Committee on Scientific Aids to Learning, President Conant of Harvard, chairman, has made a grant to cover the cost of making a microfilm master negative, on the most expensive film, of sets of volumes of scientific and learned journals. This permits the non-profit Bibliofilm Service to supply microfilm copies at the sole positive copy cost, namely, one cent per page for odd volumes, or a special rate of one-half cent per page for any properly copyable ten or more consecutive volumes. The number of pages will be estimated on request to the American Documentation Institute, care office of Science Service, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D. C.

We should like to call to the attention of prospective authors the inadequacy of typewritten labels on drawings or graphs to be reproduced in the Condor as line cuts. Except for legends beneath or outside the margins of the figures themselves, labels should be printed in India ink. Various printing devices are available on the market which can be used to make good letters

by those who do not have special skill in free-hand lettering. Typewritten letters are not sufficiently black to reproduce well, and also, they are of a style that is out of keeping with the finished appearance of the Condor which we strive to attain. The editors have no means of correcting drawings, either as regards line work or lettering, except by doing it themselves. At times we have sought the aid of our friends and associates in these matters, but we feel that we should not impose upon people in this way.—A. H. M.

### MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION

OCTOBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Los Angeles Museum, on Tuesday, October 31, 1939, at 8:15 p.m., with about 75 members and guests attending, and President Peyton presiding.

The minutes of the September meeting of the Southern Division were read and corrected by the deletion of the remarks concerning the mutilation of the metal band used on the Condor. Mr. Pemberton had since discovered that the band was not mutilated, but merely dirty.

Three applications for membership were read as follows: David L. Garrison, 121 Highland Street, West Newton, Massachusetts, proposed by W. Lee Chambers; Malcolm Ray Miller, University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, Calif., and Miss Elizabeth F. Sprague, Fullerton Union High School, Fullerton, Calif., by Loye Miller.

The Secretary announced the receipt of an offer from Science Service to Cooper Club members for special subscription rate of \$3.00 yearly to Science News Letter, a weekly publication regularly priced at \$5.00. The reduced rate is offered to members of scientific societies. The Secretary asked that Cooper Club members who are interested speak to her in order to arrange for the necessary application cards. Dr. Bishop supplemented the announcement with a few words on the merit of the publication.

A letter from the Los Angeles Audubon Society with announcement of scheduled meeting dates was read.

Mr. Ed N. Harrison then took over the meeting and showed a series of excellent color slides of a trip off the coast of Mexico taken in 1938 on Mr. Pemberton's yacht, and another series

taken in the Condor country, with excellent close-up shots of a young Condor.

Adjourned.—HILDEGARDE HOWARD, *Secretary*.

NOVEMBER.—About 275 members and guests assembled at the Los Angeles Museum for the monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club held on Tuesday, November 28, 1939. In view of the long program for the evening, President Peyton called the meeting to order at 7:45 p. m.

The minutes of the Southern Division for October were read and approved.

The following applications for membership were read: Mrs. Lida Scott Brown, 880 La Loma Road, Pasadena, California, proposed by C. V. Duff; Jay Sylvester Dow, 511 Iris Street, Redwood City, California, by Stanley Jewett; Charles B. Fleming, Jr., Box 392, Clifton, Arizona, by Lyndon Hargrave; Mrs. Elizabeth Burwell Goolden, 5611 Carlton Way, Los Angeles, by C. V. Duff; and Wyatt A. Kent, 815 South Irolo Street, Los Angeles, by George Willett.

After these brief preliminaries, the group was treated to two hours of motion pictures on the life history of the California Condor—pictures taken during the last three years by Mr. J. R. Pemberton. Mr. Pemberton's delightful comments throughout the showing of the films made the program thoroughly entertaining as well as instructive.

The first half of the pictures concerned the daily life of the condors, beginning with the early morning stretching preparatory to taking off in flight; excellent views of the birds in the air; scenes at the edge of a mountain stream where they come to drink; a remarkable scene of nearly thirty condors trying to feed on a carcass of a sheep, and finally the returning to the roosting sites on the tree tops for the night.

The last half contained the pictures of the condor's nest, the egg, and the growth of young "Oscar."

Mr. Pemberton announced that the National Association of Audubon Societies is working for the protection and encouragement of the few remaining condors, and that in order to help in this work he is selling color photographs of the adult condors at \$10.00 each. Copies of these photographs were available for inspection after the meeting.

Adjourned.—HILDEGARDE HOWARD, *Secretary*.

DECEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Los Angeles Museum on Tuesday, December 26, 1939, at 8 p. m., with President Peyton in the chair and 39 members and guests present.

The minutes of the November meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved. Four

applications for membership were read, as follows: Bruce G. Belt, 2200 Live Oak Drive, Los Angeles, proposed by Mrs. Irene Sebastian; Mrs. Joseph T. Birchett, 202 East 7th Street, Tempe, Arizona, by Mrs. N. Edward Ayer; and Wayne Tidyman, Verdale, Washington, by Leonard Wing.

The President appointed Mr. W. Lee Chambers, Mr. J. R. Pemberton and Mr. George Willett as the committee on nominations for the officers of the Southern Division for 1940.

Mr. James Murdock reported the results of a Christmas census taken at Salton Sea on the Federal Migratory Refuge and the near-by State Game Refuge. The 350,000 birds noted included 100,000 Baldpates, 150,000 Pintails, 50,000 black-birds, 5000 Ring-billed Gulls, 287 cranes, and 100 Glossy Ibis, as well as several other species in lesser abundance.

Mr. Chambers announced that he has a few incomplete sets of the Nidologist on hand to distribute if any of the members would like to have them.

Dr. Loye Miller announced that with the holding of the annual meeting of the Club in Los Angeles the latter part of March, the Southern Division is expected to make a good showing in the matter of papers to be presented.

Dr. Alden Miller, from the Northern Division, was present and spoke a few words of greeting.

Mr. Sidney Peyton reported having seen, in a taxidermist's shop in Fillmore, a silver-gray crow, with feathers edged in black. Loye Miller inquired as to the possibility of a color pattern being visible in the specimen.

The program of the evening, "Observations on the Birds of the Channel Islands," was conducted by George Willett, speaking of his recent experiences on San Clemente Island; and Kenneth Stager reported his trip to Santa Rosa Island. Jack von Bloeker, who was to have reported upon some of the other islands, was unable to be present.

Mr. Willett's trip to San Clemente Island was part of the Los Angeles Museum's projected survey of the islands, a survey to include a study of the birds, mammals, insects, molluscs, flora, geology, and archaeology. The San Clemente expedition was of one month's duration, the camping site being at the south end of the island. Mr. Willett was interested in the possible effect on the bird life of the presence of the U. S. fleet offshore and the numerous planes overhead. Possibly the scarcity and wildness of the birds as observed on this trip is attributable to this cause. The most common bird and the only tame one was the Gambel Sparrow; San Clemente Wrens, Linnets, and Bell Sparrows were common but wild. Ospreys were fairly well represented, as well as Bald Eagles and Sparrow Hawks. The Burrowing Owl was the only owl.

Towhees were absent from this part of the island, a fact which Mr. Willett thought likely correlated with the great abundance of domestic cats.

Mr. Stager's trip to Santa Rosa Island, at Thanksgiving time, was of only two days' duration and was limited to a small radius about the ranch on the east end of the island. His list of observations included a greater number of birds than Mr. Willett found on San Clemente. Towhees were common, and cats were absent.

After a brief discussion, the meeting adjourned.—HILDEGARDE HOWARD, *Secretary*.

#### NORTHERN DIVISION

NOVEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, November 16, 1939, at 8:00 p.m., in room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Emlen in the chair and about 90 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for October were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division were read by title only. Names proposed for membership were: Miss Jean T. Boulware, 2510 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, by Seth B. Benson; Mr. Luna B. Leopold, U. S. Soil Conservation Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico, by Lawrence V. Compton.

The president read a letter from Mr. Laidlaw Williams, which told of a reply of the State Park Commission to the mayor of Carmel, with regard to the use of Point Lobos Reserve by commercial interests. The Park Commission's answer to the Northern Division's letter also was read. Mr. Williams' letter recommended that the Northern Division send a letter of appreciation to the Park Commission for its stand in this matter, and a motion to that effect was unanimously carried.

The secretary announced that Cooper Club members might obtain privilege cards entitling them to a reduced subscription rate for Science News Letter, the weekly publication of Science Service. Members who are interested may obtain privilege cards by writing to Mrs. Joseph Grinnell, 2737 Forest Avenue, Berkeley, or to Miss Frances Carter, 1626 Le Roy Avenue, Berkeley.

B. C. Cain announced that the matter of protection of bird life at Lake Merced by construction of a boom across the southern end of the south lake was to come before the Board of Commissioners of San Francisco on November 20. Representatives of various ornithological and conservation groups were to be present, and Mr. Cain would represent this Club. Mrs. Kelly's motion that a letter from the Club, endorsing the policy of protection at the south lake, be given to Mr. Cain for presentation at the board meeting, was carried.

Mr. Alden H. Miller reviewed a recent publica-

tion in the Transactions of the Linnean Society of New York, "The Behavior of the Snow Bunting in Spring," by N. Tinbergen of the Netherlands.

A number of field notes was given. Milton Siebert reported Western Tanagers eating grapes in his garden in east Oakland, November 2. On November 5 a shrike was seen to be similarly engaged. Mr. Emlen reported that although the Mountain Plover was formerly rare in the Sacramento Valley, he had seen eight near Davis, November 15. Arthur Newcomb had seen 27 Snow Geese over east Oakland, October 15.

Mr. Robert C. Miller of the California Academy of Sciences spoke on "The Flight of Birds." He reviewed briefly some essentials of avian anatomy. The two principal types of flight, soaring and flapping, were discussed. From the fossil record, two somewhat unsatisfactory theories of the origin of flight have been developed: the so-called cursorial theory, and the four-limb theory of Beebe. The flight of modern birds was illustrated by photographs of albatrosses and of sea gulls, in which various positions of the wings in both flapping and soaring were particularly well shown. Questions and discussion followed Mr. Miller's presentation.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

DECEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, December 21, 1939, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with Vice-president Sumner in the chair and about 60 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for November were read and approved. Names proposed for membership were: Kenneth Cook, 308 North Third Street, Douglas, Wyoming, by Milton Seibert; Janet Failla, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, by Susan E. Chatlin; Jack Guggolz, Rt. 3, Box 303, Lodi, California, by John R. Arnold; Bernice Elizabeth Sagal, 18492 Crest Avenue, Hayward, California, by Robert E. Taylor; Julian W. Vogt, International House, Berkeley, California, by Alden H. Miller.

A motion authorizing President Emlen to appoint a committee of three to nominate officers of the Club for the coming year was carried.

Milton Seibert had recorded a White-throated Sparrow at his home in Oakland on November 27 and banded it on December 4. Mr. Covell reported an albino Eared Grebe, December 7, on a large pond near Dumbarton Bridge. It was apparently well received among its kind. He also told of the catching of English Sparrows by an egret at Lake Merritt, Oakland. Mr. Lowell Sumner described an albino Desert Sparrow seen in Sheep Canyon, Death Valley National Monu-

ment, during July, 1939. He had not been able to see whether or not the eye was pigmented, but he wondered about possible effects of light intensity combined with albinism, since light colored horses and cattle are known to suffer from eye strain in desert regions.

Mr. E. Raymond Hall introduced one of the group, who has great talent as a bird artist, following the unexcelled American tradition in this field. The beautiful waterfowl paintings of Mr. Harry Adamson were exhibited at the close of the meeting.

Two speakers shared the evening's program. Mr. Elmer Aldrich presented "Summer Observations at Crater Lake," the results of three years of study. He discussed physical features of the lake region in their effects on relative positions of the life-zones. He described the hordes of Lewis Woodpeckers which may be seen at dusk during July and August, as they pass from the yellow pines of the Transition Zone on the south facing inner slope, through a gap in the crater's rim to the same zone on the outside. Molting waterfowl frequent the lake and are easily captured from a motorboat. Most numerous of these are American Mergansers, Ruddy Ducks and scaups.

"Birds of Clark Mountain, San Bernardino County," were described by Mr. Ward Russell, of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. This mountain was visited because of its position between the Charleston Mountains, Nevada, and the Providence Mountains in California, both of which had been studied previously. In addition to the typical desert mountain vegetation, two patches of silver fir (*Abies concolor*) were found mixed with the piñons on the northern slopes, presenting an avifauna of great interest. Mr. Russell gave extensive lists of the resident and migrant species in the different life-zones. At the spring on the western slope, flocks of doves rolled in like breakers on a beach. Scott Orioles inhabited both yucca and fir. The collections made on this trip totaled 59 species.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

JANUARY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, January 25, 1939, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Emlen in the chair and 75 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. Names proposed for membership were: Pierce Brodtkorb, Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan, by Alden H. Miller; Thomas Conrad Groody, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, by Frederick H.

Test; Donald F. Hoffmeister, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, by E. Raymond Hall.

Edwin V. Miller reported depredations by Belted Kingfishers on goldfish ponds in Scotia, Humboldt County, after a rise in river level had made fishing difficult in their natural habitat. On January 21, he had found two Saw-whet Owls dead on the railroad track. They had apparently been killed by a day train. Mr. James Moffitt had recently counted some 200 Tule Geese on the refuge at Suisun Marsh. He recalled that from 1918 to 1926 they were scarce, so that it is the refuge which accounts for their present numbers. He is also interested in records of Ring-necked Ducks appearing on Bay region census lists. Apparent increase might be due to increase in numbers of observers able to distinguish Ring-necks from scaups. David G. Nichols had carried out systematic counts of Magpies, Crows and Starlings during a transcontinental train trip. The westernmost occurrence of a large group of Starlings was at Marathon, Texas.

Reporting for the nominating committee (Mrs. Amelia S. Allen, Mr. Joseph S. Dixon and Mr. E. Raymond Hall, chairman), Mr. Hall presented the following list of officers for the coming year: president, Dr. Harry R. Painton; vice-president, E. Lowell Sumner, Jr.; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Joseph Grinnell; recording secretary, Miss Frances Carter. It was moved and carried that the nominations be closed and the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for these nominees. President Emlen then turned the meeting over to the new president, Dr. Painton, who is one of the founders of the Cooper Club.

The evening's program, "More Bird Shots by an Amateur Photographer," was presented by Mr. Andrew Shirra Gibb, who showed a few of the splendid reels which he has taken since his first appearance before the Club two years ago. Mr. Gibb introduced his pictures with valuable comments on the technical problems involved in bird photography with motion picture camera, color film and powerful telephoto lenses. Pigeon Guillemots and Black Oystercatchers at Point Lobos were particularly well shown. Ruddy Ducks on the pond at Del Monte illustrated the adaptability of motion pictures to study of bird behavior. Cliff Swallows were shown building nests on the façade of Carmel Mission and gathering mud from a tiny pond a quarter of a mile away. Many charming shots of familiar species were taken in the garden of Mr. Gibb's home on Shasta Road, Berkeley. The highlight of the whole program was the "Ballet of the Sanderlings," at Carmel, showing the graceful, rhythmic movements of the flock as it advanced and retreated along the sand, following the motion of the waves.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.