

NOTES AND NEWS

Mr. A. C. Bent reports that steady progress is being made in producing his series of volumes on life histories of North American birds. The thirteenth volume, containing the remaining non-passerine birds, from parrots to hummingbirds on the old Check-list, is now in type and should be published in the near future. The fourteenth volume, containing the flycatchers, horned larks and swallows, is now nearly done and should go to the publishers before summer. The author is starting work on the fifteenth volume, which is to contain the Corvidae and the Paridae in the order of the new Check-list. This notice is to remind past and future contributors to this cooperative work that Mr. Bent is ready to receive contributions of notes, data and photographs, relating to birds in these groups. He wishes to thank his many friends for their help in the past and looks forward with pleasure to future cooperation.

A major event in Pacific coast ornithology is the publication of "The Birds of Oregon," by Ira N. Gabrielson and Stanley G. Jewett. Our copy was received on April 26, 1940. It is a book sponsored by Oregon State College, Corvallis, consisting of xxx+650 pages, with 97 plates, 20 text figures (maps), a colored frontispiece, and a folded life-zone map. No section of the western United States has had more need for a general book on its bird life than Oregon. The "Birds of Oregon" is designed in part as a text for the beginning student in that it contains introductory sections on birds in general that are of distinctly elementary stamp. These, with the descriptions of species quoted from Mrs. Bailey's handbook, should serve this purpose in adequate, though not distinguished, fashion. But, the book's major contribution lies in its value to the somewhat more advanced student of birds who is concerned with distributional problems in Oregon. The authors are eminently qualified to discuss occurrence, seasonal status, abundance, and habits of species in the State, and they do so interestingly and accurately. Wisely, for a book of this kind, they deviate in no significant degree from the nomenclature of the A. O. U. Check-list. There is no extended attempt at nomenclatural or systematic revision. Thus, none of the many subspecies described by Oberholser in 1932 from the Warner Valley area is accounted for, except that they are included with the list of species with type localities in Oregon. As explained in the introduction, the manuscript was completed in 1935, and we note that not all records published by the authors themselves subsequent to that year are incorporated. This does

not appear to us a serious deficiency, however. The illustrations are from photographs by the authors and by William L. Finley, Irene Finley, H. T. Bohlman, Alex Walker and Reed Ferris. These greatly enhance the value and beauty of the book which is nicely printed and bound. Every serious student of birds will prize this work and will be grateful to the authors for the excellent compilation which it comprises.—A. H. M.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

JANUARY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Los Angeles Museum on Tuesday, January 30, 1940, at 7:30 p.m., with President Peyton in the chair and approximately one hundred and twenty members and guests present.

The minutes of the December meeting of the Southern Division were approved as read. Sixteen applications for membership were read as follows: Floyd Garfield Ashbaugh, 1961 Eden Ave., Glendale, Calif.; Ira Brooks Boggs, Ogelbay Hall, Morgantown, W. Va.; Charles T. Church, 70 Pine St., New York, N. Y.; Louie Irby Davis, Harlingen, Texas; E. Raymond Driver, P. O. Box 1114, Medford, Ore.; Jos. L. Floyd, Court House, Canton, Ohio; Devin A. Garrity, 23 East 26th St., New York, N. Y.; Lucy Bell Hawk, 219 N. Calaveras St., Fresno, Calif.; Magdeleine C. Hutchinson (Mrs. Arthur E.), Chester Springs, Chester Co., Pa.; Pompeo M. Maresi, 9 Reimer Road, Scarsdale, N. Y.; John L. Miller, 2349 West 23rd St., Los Angeles, Calif.; Edward H. Moeran, 541 Bronx River Road, Yonkers, N. Y.; and Almeda Nordyke, 2745 C St., Selma, Calif., all proposed by W. Lee Chambers. John Courts Jones, 3224 19th St., N.W., Washington, D. C., and Captain G. E. Thomas, U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., by John McB. Robertson; Hobart Merritt Van Deusen, 128 Pinehurst Ave, New York, N. Y., by Mrs. N. Edward Ayer.

President Peyton called for the report of the nominating committee. The chairman, Mr. George Willett, offered the following nominations for 1940: President, Robert T. Moore; Vice-president, Hildegard Howard; Secretary, Sherwin F. Wood. It was moved and seconded that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the slate as presented and the new officers were duly installed.

Mr. George Willett reported a new publication of the U. S. Biological Survey on birds and mammals of eastern Oregon entitled "Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge" by Stanley G. Jewett, who was introduced to the members.

Mr. Sidney Peyton reported seeing four Dusky Poor-wills in Sespe Canyon at dusk on January 27th.

Mr. George Willett reminded members of the Annual Meeting to be held at the Los Angeles Museum on March 22 and 23. Friday and Saturday will be devoted to presentation of papers with possibly a field trip on Sunday. The Annual Dinner will be held Saturday night, March 23.

A resolution nominating William Alanson Bryan, of Los Angeles, California, to Honorary membership in the Cooper Club was passed unanimously by the Southern Division "in recognition of his many contributions to the science of ornithology, and of the many courtesies he has extended to the Cooper Ornithological Club of California." A letter bearing this resolution was forwarded to the President of the Northern Division.

President Moore suggested that the Southern Division send a message of congratulation and good wishes to the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club of Philadelphia, Pa., this year being its Fiftieth Anniversary. A motion to this effect by Dr. Louis B. Bishop was seconded and unanimously carried.

A motion expressing appreciation for the splendid services of the officers of 1939, especially Mr. Sidney Peyton, initiated by Mr. C. V. Duff, was seconded and unanimously carried. Dr. Bishop further commented on the efficiency of two outstanding secretaries of the club, Laura Law Bailey and Hildegard Howard.

The program of the evening consisted of motion pictures in color illustrating life history studies of the Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Pacific Horned Owl, Red-bellied and Cooper hawks, Great Blue Heron, and "Birds of the Sierras," namely Junco, Modoc Song Sparrow, White-headed Woodpecker and Golden Pileolated Warbler. Mrs. F. F. Roberts assisted in taking the pictures of the "Birds of the Sierras." The color quality was excellent and the artistic photography of the narrator, Mr. Ed. N. Harrison, well deserved the enthusiastic applause of the club members.

Adjourned.—SHERWIN F. WOOD, *Secretary*.

NORTHERN DIVISION

FEBRUARY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, February 29, 1940, at 8:00 p.m., in room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Painton in

the chair, and about 60 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for January were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division were read by title only. Names proposed for membership were: Miss May Titus, 2510 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, by David G. Nichols; Edwin Price Weigel, 709 Elmwood Ave., Wilmette, Illinois, by Alden H. Miller. A resolution nominating William Alanson Bryan, of Los Angeles, California, to Honorary Membership in the Club, was given its first reading before the Northern Division.

Mrs. Grinnell announced that the Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society would meet with the A.A.A.S. in Seattle, Washington, June 17-22, and that the Cooper Club had been invited to participate. It was moved and carried that the president appoint a delegate from the Northern Division. Attention was called to the 14th Annual Meeting of the Cooper Club, to be held at the Los Angeles Museum, March 22-24.

Field notes opened with B. C. Cain's account of the feeding of cormorants on fish, near the underpass at the Berkeley Aquatic Park, during incoming tide, February 8th. Bonaparte Gulls were taking advantage of the situation for their own feeding. Mr. Durham reported briefly on the status of waterfowl at Point Isabel, since the establishment of the duck club. Mr. Moffitt described the northward migration of flocks of Whistling Swans, to escape bad weather conditions in Lassen County around February 23.

Mr. Carl Koford, speaker of the evening, gave an excellent account of the Natural History of the California Condor, which he has been studying in the field under the auspices of the National Association of Audubon Societies. In this work he has cooperated closely with J. R. Pemberton, whose photographic records of the birds are unequalled. By way of introduction, Mr. Koford outlined something of the previous knowledge concerning the Condor, numbers of museum specimens, records of birds kept in captivity, popular ideas as to its size, etc. External appearance and field characters were illustrated by a few still photographs, including the classical ones by Finley and Bohlman. Roosting postures and the elaborate exercises in preparation for flight Mr. Koford presented graphically by rapid chalk sketches. The typical soaring flight was described in detail. Feeding and drinking habits, it was explained, are closely related to the problem of preservation of the species. The suggestion was hazarded that overspecialization might be leading inevitably to extinction. It is toward a more complete understanding of the ecology of these birds, and the discovery of possible means for their preservation, that this study is directed.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.