

NOTES AND NEWS

The September, 1940, issue of "California Bird News" (vol. 5, nos. 2 and 3, p. 2), mimeographed periodical issued by the California office of the Division of Wildlife Research, Federal Fish and Wildlife Service, contains the following paragraph.

"In 1939 six white-tailed kites were banded by a cooperator near Watsonville. Before December 31, 1939, bands of three of the six had been sent in, shot by residents of the area. This small hawk, which to the average layman looks something like a small sea gull, is considered so uncommon that the legal taking of a specimen requires a special permit from the Division of Fish and Game; possibly the results of the 1939 banding indicate one of the major causes of its scarcity."

Realizing that ignorant or wanton shooting of this beneficial bird is a considerable factor in its depletion, Mr. Laidlaw Williams and I have for several years advocated an attractive poster which would point out the bird's recognition marks and make a plea for its preservation. The National Audubon Society has heeded our requests for such a poster and is now preparing one for distribution in California. My experience with duck hunting clubs where kites are numerous is that the members are anxious to protect the birds when they learn of their good habits and depleted numbers. Hence, it is thought that broader education, along these lines, of individuals likely to see kites will work for the birds' protection.

It is hoped that the Audubon Society posters will be ready for distribution by January 1, 1941. It is planned to place them in as many duck hunting clubs as possible, in places where hunting and fishing boats are rented in kite territory, in farm houses near which kites nest, and in our schools. Thus, a general plan of education may result, with decided benefit to kites. It is hoped that Federal and State game wardens may assist in distribution of the posters, for this will help to interest the enforcement officers in the plan to preserve this attractive species.—JAMES MORFITT, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.*

Beginning with the next issue of *The Condor* in January, 1941, the form for citation of literature will be changed and simplified. The style to be adopted is in accord with current practice in a number of scientific journals and consists primarily of the use of a colon to separate volume (and year) from the page number, thus doing away with the abbreviations "vol." and "p." An example of a text citation to an article appearing in a journal would be: (*Condor*, 42, 1940:310). In keeping with this system, a particular refer-

ence to a statement in a paper listed in a terminal bibliography would be: Lack (1940:275). The full citation in the terminal bibliography would be: Lack, D. [next line] 1940. Pair-formation in birds. *Condor*, 42:269-286. Volume numbers should always be in Arabic rather than Roman numerals, except where, for bibliographic completeness the author wishes to show the style of numeral employed in the publication cited. Contributors to *The Condor* will relieve the editors of much work if they will observe these matters of form.—A.H.M.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS
NORTHERN DIVISION

MAY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, May 23, 1940, at 8 p.m., in room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Painton in the chair and about 40 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for April were read and approved. Two names were proposed for membership: Robbins S. King, Box 243, Cupertino, California, by Marion Jo Theobald; Lloyd P. Tevis, Jr., Box 1416, Carmel, California, by J. M. Linsdale.

Report for the Conservation Committee was made by B. C. Cain, chairman. There has been much interest in the Berkeley Aquatic Park, especially since new funds have been made available for its development. Continued interest by club members will be helpful in maintaining there the important waterfowl habitats, as has been done in the past. It was suggested that an additional member on the committee would be desirable, on account of absences of other members during the summer. Mr. Frank G. Watson was appointed.

Mr. Alden Miller brought to the meeting a copy of "Birds of Oregon," by Gabrielson and Jewett, so that members might have an opportunity to look at it.

Mr. R. M. Bond gave a detailed account of the birds seen on a recent week's trip to Santa Barbara and Anacapa islands; 450 young Brown Pelicans were banded on Anacapa. He also stated that there is an apparent decrease in White-tailed Kites this year, both in Santa Cruz and Ventura counties. Milton Siebert had observed a pair of mockingbirds nesting in the Maxwell Park district of east Oakland, May 15. David Nichols told of his observations of the Black-crowned Night Herons which arrive at the Aquatic Park in the early evening, after having roosted elsewhere during the day. Mr. Emlen described some effects of the late spring rains on bird life in the Sacramento Valley. Some of the heron colonies

are empty, having been under 7 feet of water until recently. Delayed plowing and flooding of rice fields has resulted in disaster to pheasants caught at the height of their nesting season. Ducks, however, have done very well, as indicated by an increase of Mallards, a few Cinnamon Teal and more Blue-winged Teal. Miss Rinehart had found a Bullock Oriole, apparently nesting, on Bay Street, Alameda, and Mr. Cain added the record of a pair in Dimond Park. Mrs. Brace- lin said that the Anhinga was again to be seen at Lake Merced, San Francisco, in the same area which it frequented last year.

"The Breeding Cycle of the White-tailed Kite" was the topic presented by Mr. Frank G. Watson. The kite, he pointed out, is a bird of marsh or farm land, requiring a sheltered spot for nesting (usually a willow tree), and good open country for foraging. He recounted the routine of activities of a typical day for the kites, and described territorial behavior, pairing and nesting, foraging by the male during courtship and early incubation.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

JUNE.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, June 26, 1940, at 8 p.m., in room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Painton in the chair and 35 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for May were read and approved. Minutes of the Stanford Chapter were read in part. Names proposed for membership were: George (Bell) Dyer, Diabase Farm, New Hope, Pennsylvania, by Curtis Wright; Mrs. Harry R. Painton, 1000 Cowper Street, Palo Alto, California, by Harry R. Painton.

The meeting was devoted to pictures and summer field notes. Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Bailey, of Coral Gables, Florida, showed some of their motion pictures of birds. Of particular interest to the club, because of recent reports on the White-tailed Kite, were pictures of nesting Swallow-tailed Kites. The nest, of Spanish moss and cypress or oak twigs, is placed high in a spindly pine. Wood Ibis, Anhingas, Pelicans, Florida Cormorants and Roseate Spoonbills were among those shown. There were many studies of nests with eggs or young birds. The habitats found within the Everglades include wide areas of sawgrass, water ways with large masses of vegetation or "floating islands," mangrove swamps and the "Big Cypress" which is the jungle of tall trees.

Mrs. Bailey opened field notes with some of her experiences with bird banding in Florida. Unfortunately, there are only five banders in the entire state, but she hopes to arouse interest in

banding through various bird clubs. Dr. Loye Miller supplemented material on kites with a note on the finding of fossil remains of a White-tailed Kite in a Pleistocene cavern of eastern Mexico. He also referred to the work of Tom Rodgers on the sound produced by the tail feathers of the male Anna Hummingbird, and told of hearing a feeble sound which could not be mistaken for a vocal tone, made by the tail feathers of young birds of the year, at the Tucker's sanctuary in the Santa Ana Mountains.

Joe Marshall discussed the finding of birds in the wrong life zones and opened the question of the possible role of these waifs as pioneers in determining the fate of the species. Tom Rodgers described nests of Cliff Swallows at Bass Lake. He recalled that two years ago at the Life Sciences Building, there were evidences of young birds having been left to perish in the nests, and wondered whether the instinct of migration might overcome that of feeding the young, at the end of the season. R. M. Bond compared conditions at Pyramid Lake, Nevada, with those found by E. R. Hall ten years ago. Diversion of water from the Truckee River has resulted in a marked drop of the lake level and a decrease in numbers of gulls, pelicans and cormorants. Ray Alcorn added that with the lowering of Pyramid Lake had come a transfer of California Gulls and Caspian Terns to Lahontan Reservoir.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

JULY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, July 25, 1940, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Painton in the chair and about 120 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for June and the Southern Division for May were both read in part. Three proposals for membership were read: Virgil Darwin Allread, Box 302, Fair Oaks, California; Ewin G. England, Box 22, Durham, California; Miss Evelyn H. Thomas, 382 Kenoak Drive, Pomona, California; all submitted by Lloyd G. Ingles.

Mr. Milton Ray reported an unsatisfactory season for field work in the high Sierra. Early in May, there was more snow at Lake Tahoe than had been found in twenty-five years; then it suddenly turned warm and the snow disappeared, but abundant bird life was not to be observed. On an eastern trip, he visited the home of Benjamin Hogue, collector and taxidermist, at Stephantown, New York, and Mrs. Hogue let him have some material taken by an old-time Californian, Chester Barlow.

The speaker of the evening was Dr. Sarah R. Atsatt, of the Department of Zoology at the

University of California at Los Angeles, who spent from September, 1939, to January, 1940, traveling through southern and central Africa. Excellent museums were visited in South Africa and at Nairobi in British East Africa. In the Belgian Congo, she spent some time in the Krueger National Park, photographing wild-life and habitats. In beginning the study of African birds, she found it necessary to change her concept of certain families, as for example the shrikes, which include at least 38 African species, not all limited in color to black and white. Common names frequently proved to be in native dialects. Also, they often presented a confusing combination of familiar terms, such as wren-warbler, cuckoo-shrike, hawk-eagle, eagle-owl and flycatcher-warbler.

The Walking Eagle, or Secretary Bird, is well distributed in central Africa. The Roller corresponds to the blue jays in behavior and sound. Sunbirds replace our hummingbirds and are brilliant, with malachite or crimson coloring flashing against the poinsettias which are abundant in South Africa.

Dr. Atsatt concluded her talk with a series of beautiful Kodachrome pictures which she had taken, showing the landscape, the characteristics of the towns and the types of vegetation. In describing each habitat, she mentioned the kinds of birds seen there.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

AUGUST.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, August 22, 1940, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, with President Painton in the chair and about 100 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for July were read and approved. Thomas J. Trelease, Steiner Apartments, Sparks, Nevada, was proposed for membership in the club by Susan E. Chattin. All further business was postponed, in order to devote the remainder of the time to the speaker of the evening.

Mr. Ed N. Harrison, of Encinitas, California, showed several reels of his photographic life history studies of birds, in natural color. Whenever possible, he has attempted to get a complete sequence from a single nest, but there are times when accidents to nest, young or parents make it necessary to continue the study in following years. Pictures taken in Oregon showed nesting of California Murres, ducks, Avocets, Canada Geese and White Pelicans. There were some particularly fine portraits of American Egrets. In the Mammoth Lake region, Mrs. Frances Roberts, who assisted him, had made some beautiful close-up studies of the Sierra Junco, Modoc Song Sparrow and Pileo-

lated Warbler, all difficult because of the dense shade of the surroundings.

One of Mr. Harrison's most complete studies is that of the Red-bellied Hawk, in San Diego County. The motion pictures were so taken that the concrete highway far below often made a light background against which the nest and young, high up in a eucalyptus, showed to excellent advantage. His pictures of the California Condor were taken in cooperation with Mr. J. R. Pemberton and gave some additional chapters in the biography of the famous young "Oscar." Bits from work on the Bald Eagle and the Long-eared Owl were also shown. The series on the Golden Eagle was another record remarkable in its completeness.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

MAY.—The annual outdoor meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Dorothy May Tucker Memorial Bird Sanctuary at Oakwood in Modjeska Canyon, near Orange, California, on Sunday, May 26, 1940. A short business meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by President Robert T. Moore, with about 45 members and guests present.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved as read. The January, February, and March minutes of the Northern Division meetings were read by title. Four applications for membership were read as follows: Granville Plummer Ashcraft, 3216 Wateksa Avenue, Palms Station, Los Angeles, California, proposed by Alden H. Miller; M. Palmer Stoddard, 309 N. Crescent Drive, Beverly Hills, California, by C. V. Duff; Norman H. Hill, 5 Manor Circle, Takoma Park, Washington, D. C., and William Geo. Vowels, 1221 West 46th Street, Los Angeles, California, by George Willett.

President Moore introduced the Club's host, Mr. B. F. Tucker, who gave a brief account of the history of the canyon and his bird-attracting activities of the last sixteen years. The ease and clarity with which club members could observe the hummingbirds at the automatic feeders just outside the porch windows was appreciated by all. The Anna, Costa, and Black-chinned hummingbirds are known to nest and winter in the canyon while the Allen and Calliope have been seen in the summer months. It is Mr. Tucker's opinion that the young of the Black-chinned and Costa hummingbirds stay on during the winter because of their dependence on the artificial food, since they have not yet acquired a taste for, or learned where to find, the wild nectar. The courtship antics of the hummingbirds have provided a fascinating study for the Tuckers and their

friends. Mr. Tucker reported that usually the female builds the nest but sometimes coöperative nest building has been observed. Annoyances from other animals included forays on the food by ants and bees, and destruction of the birds by cats. The ants have been kept from the feeders by oil funnel traps built around the suspension wires. When the bees begin to steal the artificial honey, they will not go back to wild honey; perforated metal shields over the open dish of sweet water and an electrical shocking device improvised by Mr. Tucker solved this problem. Mr. Tucker claimed that his interest had been maintained through the active coöperation of his wife, the late Dorothy May Tucker, and the encouragement of bird enthusiasts. His clear presentation of facts before the Cooper Club members revealed his deep personal interest in the birds.

A motion initiated by George Willett and seconded by Dr. Louis B. Bishop, expressing appreciation for Mr. Tucker's kindly hospitality and for his summary of the creative work of the sanctuary was unanimously carried.

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

JUNE—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Los Angeles Museum, Tuesday, June 25, 1940, with Vice-president Hildegarde Howard in the chair and 20 members and guests present.

The minutes of the May meeting of the Southern Division were approved as read, after which the April minutes of the Northern Division were read. Two applications for membership were read as follows: Lloyd Mason Smith, Rainbow Forest Museum, Petrified Forest National Monument, Holbrook, Arizona, proposed by W. Lee Chambers, and Clair Steggall, 2809 Marsh Street, Los Angeles, California, proposed by Loye Miller.

A letter from Mr. Oscar F. Clarke of Colton, California, was read, proposing the formation of a chapter at Colton to be known as the San Bernardino Valley Chapter of the Cooper Ornithological Club with Mr. W. C. Hanna as adviser. On motion by John McB. Robertson, seconded by Gilbert Benjamin, the Southern Division went on record as favoring the formation of the chapter.

Dr. Hildegarde Howard called the attention of members to two new books, Peters', *Check-list of Birds of the World*, vol. 4, and Todd's *Birds of Western Pennsylvania*. Mr. John McB. Robertson remarked about the apparent indifference to war shown by the absence of war references in recent discussions in the Proceedings of the British Ornithological Club.

Mr. Robertson had observed the nest of a pair of Blue Grosbeaks in Orange County built in a

sunflower plant about three and one-half feet above the ground. Mr. William Vowels reported seeing Violet-green, Barn and Cliff swallows at Sespe Canyon recently. Mr. Gilbert Benjamin reported a Golden Eagle at Virginia Lakes.

Mr. Howard Cogswell reported seeing a flock of Evening Grosbeaks on March 23 at Big Bear Lake as well as Canvas-backs, Redhead, Scaup and Ring-necked ducks. He reported two male and three female Ring-necked Ducks wintering at Devil's Gate Dam near Pasadena.

Miss Ida DeMay reported recovery of bones of many recent birds from the Carpinteria asphalt deposits and commented upon the interesting observations of Dr. Loye Miller on the San Josecito collection of fossil birds from Mexico. Mr. Robert Sanders reported an unusual nesting site of House Sparrows on First Street, Los Angeles, above a sign in front of the Times Building. Mr. Clair Steggall had observed Golden Eagles, Sierra Juncos, White-throated Swifts, Purple Martins, Red-tailed and Cooper hawks, Black-throated Gray Warblers, and Hutton and Cassin vireos in the Santa Ana Mountains. Mr. Sam Hinton reported on the dexterity of Road-runners in robbing the reptile pits at U. C. L. A.

Some discussion followed concerning measures to take in preventing spraying and treatment of trees and shrubs at times when nesting birds were in them. It was felt that individual pleas probably would help to save some birds.

A motion, to be transmitted to the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County, that the club go on record in favor of making the Nigger Slough region into a wild-life area rather than a recreational area was initiated by C. V. Duff, seconded by John McB. Robertson, and unanimously carried.

Mr. John McB. Robertson reported more nesting pairs of Cassin Kingbirds than usual in western Orange County. He stated that a few usually stay all winter. Dr. Hildegarde Howard reported a tragic ending to the nesting efforts of Killdeer on the fourth floor roof of the Los Angeles Museum Building, despite attempts to help them.

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

JULY—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Los Angeles Museum, Tuesday, July 30, 1940, with Vice-president Hildegarde Howard in the chair and 20 members and guests present.

The minutes of the June meeting of the Southern Division were approved as read. The May minutes of the Northern Division were read by title. Two applications for membership were read as follows: Lieut. Comdr. Deill Phillips, U. S. S. *Louisville*, c/o Postmaster, San Pedro, California,

and Gerald Eugene Sedgewick, 71 North Pleasant Avenue, Ridgewood, New Jersey, both proposed by W. Lee Chambers.

Dr. Howard introduced the speaker, Dr. Carlton M. Herman, of the Zoological Society of San Diego, who spoke on bird diseases. Dr. Herman pointed out that there were at present two important sources of information, namely, studies on poultry and investigations of game birds. He discussed briefly common diseases such as pneumonia, duck sickness or botulism, vitamin deficiencies, lead poisoning and enteritis. He emphasized the possible danger of introducing foreign quail into new areas without previous knowledge of the bird's parasites, especially those with quail enteritis. Whole populations may be wiped out in a few days by this infection due either to an absence of immunity or to a lack of sufficient immunity from previous contacts with the causative agent. In discussing a protozoan intestinal parasite, *Coccidium*, causing a disease that is spread by contamination, he stated that House Sparrows succumb quickly to this infection when crowded in a small cage. He suggested that this situation may be one of the contributing factors that account for the necessity of territories in some species of birds.

Dr. Herman was active in the bird disease study project organized in 1937 by Dr. C. Brooke Worth and the Eastern Bird-banding Association. Their first report in 1938 involved the work of six co-operators on 23 birds. In 1939, there were eight co-operators who examined over 200 birds, and in 1940, ten co-operators have handled nearly 500 birds. Among the more important findings were a diphtheria-like disease in wild passeriform birds, tumors of birds caused by a number of disease-producing agents, and a virus disease transmitted by food contamination in doves. Dr. Herman suggested that a virulent form of this virus disease of the Columbiformes could possibly help to explain such rapid disappearances as that of the Passenger Pigeon.

Mr. W. A. Kent reported over 200 pairs of eared grebes nesting at Big Bear Lake.

Mr. George Willett reported that in the plains country of northeastern Colorado he noticed two very common birds, Horned Larks and Lark Buntings. The Horned Larks were so abundant that they swarmed like bees in front of the car, making it impossible to avoid running over them. He reported that in the mountains at 12,000 feet, two pipit's nests were found, each with five eggs, and that lower down along the banks of highway cuts, four occupied nests of Townsend Solitaire were seen. In eastern Colorado, near Lamar, he found nests of Brown Thrasher, Eastern Kingbird and Western Mockingbird in a small grove of trees. There was an American Magpie nest near the nest of an Eastern Kingbird and every time

the magpie left or returned, the kingbird accompanied it or met it fifty yards from the nest.

Mr. F. G. Crawford reported an apparent mass desertion of Tricolor Red-wing nests at Nigger Slough during the first week in May, although the water level had remained about the same during their nesting period.

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

AUGUST.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Los Angeles Museum, Tuesday, August 27, 1940, with Vice-president Hildgarde Howard in the chair and 70 members and guests present.

The minutes of the July meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved. The June minutes of the Northern Division were read by title and the July minutes were read in part.

A letter to W. Lee Chambers from John H. Baker, Executive Director of the National Association of Audubon Societies, was read, announcing the employment of Bert Harwell as representative of the Association in California.

Mr. John McB. Robertson called attention to a note by the editor in the July, 1940, issue of *Avicultural Magazine* reporting the complete destruction of the bird collection of Captain Jean Delacour in France.

Dr. Howard introduced the speaker, Mr. Eugene O. Murman, Glendale artist, who illustrated his lecture on the birds of paradise with excellent hand-tinted lantern slides. Mr. Murman cooperated closely with naturalists while attempting to portray accurately these birds in their native haunts during his four-year study of them. He pointed out that although birds of paradise were reported in 1522, very little is known today of some one hundred different species found chiefly in Australia, New Guinea and adjacent islands. About 40 species were illustrated in color. Several slides of a single species were shown to depict the elaborate displays of the male birds. A lively discussion followed the lecture relative to the natural history of the birds and to the technique of preparing the slides.

Mr. W. A. Kent, during a Los Angeles Audubon Society field trip ten miles off shore, under the leadership of George Willett, reported observing the following: Black-footed Albatross, Sooty and Pink-footed shearwaters, Xantus Murrelet, Sabine Gull, Black Petrel, Brandt and Farallon cormorants, Parasitic and Pomerine jaegers, and Common Tern.

Dr. A. W. Bell reported seeing Rosy Finches in the Sierras at 9000 feet in the Kern River country. He also reported the presence of California Thrashers in his backyard, several miles from chaparral.

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