

NOTES AND NEWS

Members of the Cooper Ornithological Club are reminded of the Fifteenth Annual Meeting, which is to be held in Berkeley, California, on April 11 and 12, 1941. Compilation of the scientific program must be finished shortly after the appearance of this issue of the Condor. Members who plan to appear on the program should, therefore, transmit titles of their papers to the Committee on Arrangements without delay. The field trip to the Los Baños region in Merced County, planned for Sunday, April 13, should make possible the participation of many southern members who will be returning to the Los Angeles area by automobile.

We are happy to learn that Mr. Jean Delacour has been able to come to this country following his disastrous losses in France this last year. He is now serving as consultant to the New York Zoological Society, where his experience in aviculture should be of inestimable value.—A.H.M.

For some time we have been aware of an ill-advised practice followed in some journals in the titling of illustrations. Either through lack of details, or sometimes through seemingly deliberate ambiguity, the reader is allowed to make incorrect inferences about places where pictures were taken. Examples may be found in *The Audubon Magazine* (née *Bird-Lore*). In the November-December issue for 1940 on page 496 appears a photograph introducing an article by Ira N. Gabrielson on bird concentrations in Alaska. This picture apparently was supplied by the magazine to supplement the illustrations submitted by the author. The picture in question is one taken at Point Reyes, Marin County, California, and shows murre and cormorants. The photographer, Laidlaw Williams, is credited, but the legend reads: "Cormorants were present in numerous small groups, but Murres were everywhere along the hundreds of miles of rockbound coast of Alaska." The inference is natural that the birds pictured were in Alaska unless one is familiar with Mr. Williams' activities or unless one has come to know in detail the spot which is shown, as some of us have in this instance.—A.H.M.

The San Bernardino Chapter of the Cooper Ornithological Club has been meeting regularly through the past winter months, and with good attendance. Mr. Oscar F. Clarke, the secretary, reports that recent speakers before the group

have been James B. Dixon, Edmund C. Jaeger, and John B. Treudge.

We learn with interest of a California convention of the Audubon Society planned for May 10 and 11, 1941, at Asilomar, Monterey County. Mr. Bert Harwell, California representative of the Society, will be able to supply interested ornithologists with further details about this meeting. We look forward with pleasant anticipation to this first state-wide gathering of the Society.—A.H.M.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS
SOUTHERN DIVISION

NOVEMBER.—The monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Los Angeles Museum on Tuesday, November 26, 1940, with Vice-president Hildegard Howard in the chair and 23 members and guests present.

The minutes of the October meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved. Four applications for membership were read, as follows: Dorothea B. Fox, 1035 W. 35th St., Los Angeles, and Robert L. Rutherford, 4415 Victoria Park Dr., Los Angeles, proposed by Frances L. Cramer; Sally Carrighar, Room 302, Montgomery Block, San Francisco, by Joseph S. Dixon, and Franklin French, Rolling Hills, California, by Blanche Vignos.

Letters were read regarding the forthcoming meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at Pasadena, California, June 16-21, 1941. The Chair appointed, as a committee to consider advisability of Cooper Club participation in this meeting: Loye Miller, Chairman, George Willett and Sherwin F. Wood. Owing to the fact that the last Tuesday in December comes on New Year's eve, it was voted to hold the December meeting of the Southern Division on Tuesday, December 17.

The speakers of the evening were Mr. J. Fred Wohnus and Mr. Dwight Ryerson, Department of Zoology, University of California at Los Angeles, who gave an illustrated preliminary report on the occurrence of blood parasites in local birds.

Parasitization was found in 63 per cent of one group of birds, many new host records being among those listed. Of the birds examined, towhees, thrashers and California Jays were most heavily parasitized.

Mr. C. B. Harwell spoke briefly on projected work of the Audubon Society in California.

Adjourned.—GEORGE WILLETT, *Acting Secretary*.

NORTHERN DIVISION

NOVEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, November 28, 1940, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with Vice-president E. Lowell Sumner, Jr., in the chair and about 60 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for October were read and approved. Mr. Ira La Rivers (President Nevada Audubon Society), P. O. Box 1493, Reno, Nevada, was proposed for membership by Jean M. Linsdale.

Mr. Alden Miller showed the poster provided by the National Audubon Society to call the attention of sportsmen and farmers to the value of the White-tailed Kite, a project which has been furthered through the efforts of Mr. James Moffitt.

It was suggested by Mr. Miller that Dr. Pain-ton might enjoy an expression of good wishes from the club during his convalescence, and it was unanimously decided that a letter be sent.

Mrs. Kelly spoke of the abuses again being practiced by the feather industry, in spite of protective legislation, and said that an "indignation meeting" held by the National Audubon Society and attended by representative milliners and others concerned had been successful. It is desirable that women write to leading department stores protesting the illegal traffic in plumage. The Vice-president suggested that a deluge of letters from individuals might be more effective than group action by the club. The matter was referred to the Conservation Committee for recommendations.

Mr. Rodney B. Radford, photographer with the Division of Visual Information in the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, introduced the film entitled "The Heritage We Guard." This picture presents the story of the vast resources of the North American continent, their exploitation with its frequently tragic effects, and the enlightened attempts at restoration and conservation. The sound track included a number of bird songs recorded by Dr. Arthur A. Allen.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

DECEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, December 19, 1940, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with Mr. Alden H. Miller presiding and about 60 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for November were read and approved. Names proposed

for membership were: Sara Whitman Cleary, 2322 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, and Mrs. Ethel R. Richardson, 900 Hilldale Avenue, Berkeley, both by May Titus; Robert Winthrop Storer, 2420 Channing Way, Berkeley, by Frank G. Watson.

Mrs. Kelly reported for B. C. Cain, chairman of the Conservation Committee, on the matter of illegal traffic in plumage for millinery purposes. She said that the passing of a resolution by the club and the sending of a copy to the National Audubon Society would be desirable in order that the number of organizations opposed to the trade might be recorded. Mr. Moffitt requested reading of the resolution passed by the Audubon Society of the Pacific, and a motion that the resolution be adopted as read was unanimously carried. (A copy of the resolution, with slight rewording appropriate to the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club, has been sent to the National Audubon Society; copy filed with minutes of this meeting.)

A motion was unanimously carried, authorizing the president to appoint a committee of three to nominate officers of the Northern Division for the coming year.

Mrs. Allen reported the occurrence of an Arctic Tern at Carmel, October 9, and Frank Watson added a record for the Berkeley Aquatic Park in August. Mrs. Kelly said that an Audubon Warbler had been frequenting the syrup vials put out for hummingbirds by Mrs. Hamilton in Alameda. Mrs. Allen cited the use of sapsucker holes by Audubon Warblers, and said that Mrs. Hamilton's experience makes it probable that the warblers actually take the sap and not just insects which have been attracted to it. Joe Marshall had observed some strange behavior of salt-marsh Song Sparrows and other marsh dwellers in Marin County. When the water was ankle deep at high tide, whole flocks were calling, and milling around through the *Salicornia* and *Grindelia*, with dry, brush-covered hillsides only 50 or 75 yards away.

"Courtship of the Sage Grouse" was the subject of a talk by Mr. James Moffitt. He brought out the fact that study of courtship and breeding behavior plays an important part in taxonomy, often revealing relationships more fundamental than those based on plumage differences only. Sexual behavior of the grouse begins early in February in spite of the cold; it is necessary for the young to be brought out during the brief period while the grass is green, as that is the only food of the 2- or 3-day-old chicks. The nuptial display was clearly illustrated by a kodachrome motion picture study, taken by Mr. H. M. Borland of Eastman Kodak Stores, and shown at the meeting by Mr. Gordon True.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.