

feet in the text with the accounts of the species to which they pertain rather than at the end of the volume. Likewise an improvement is the use of many more specimens, when available, for calculation of average measurements of races. Thus, Friedmann has broken away from the statistically fallacious attitude of Ridgway, who seemed content with averages based on a "standard" ten or a dozen specimens. The organization of the statement of range into paragraphs dealing separately with breeding range, winter range, and casual occurrences is new and helpful. One change that is not an advance in our opinion is elimination from the keys of parenthetical indications of geographic range.

The lists of literature in the synonymies become astoundingly lengthy as a result of the wealth of ornithological publication in the last few decades. For example, the listings for a common species like the American Coot take up six pages of fine print. These bibliographies, although not entirely complete, are of inestimably high value.

The vernacular names of races that are employed usually reflect the specific relations of the bird and consequently in a number of instances, as with the Clapper Rails, improve upon the A.O.U. Check-list of 1931. But why this improvement has not been made uniformly is puzzling. Thus, quite logically, the "Light-footed Rail" of southern California becomes the Light-footed Clapper Rail; but the subspecies of *Grus canadensis* remain little Brown Crane, Sandhill Crane, Florida Sandhill Crane (Florida Crane of the Check-list) and Cuban Sandhill Crane, and the Black Rails (*Lateralus* [*Creciscus*] *jamaicensis*) are named Eastern Black Rail, Farallon Rail (!) and Jamaican Black Rail. Incidentally, the "Farallon Rail" has not been known to breed on the Farallon Islands, as is implied (p. 157), nor is it at all likely that it would do so. A name for this race that is much more fitting and which has had wide use in the West is California Black Rail.

Friedmann's taxonomic treatment of the cranes and rails of the Pacific coast of North America agrees with that of Peters (Check-list of the Birds of the World, 2, 1934), with one exception. The Pacific race of the Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola zetarius* Peters, known formerly as *Rallus virginianus pacificus* Dickey) is shown to be unworthy of recognition as a result of a survey of its supposed characters of size. The Clapper Rails of the salt marshes of both sides of North and Central America are united in one species (*Rallus longirostris*), we think correctly, by both Peters and Friedmann.

The successful efforts of Friedmann to continue the Ridgway volumes, in which he incorporates his own good judgment and experience,

will find ready appreciation among North American ornithologists.—Alden H. Miller.

## MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

### SOUTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Los Angeles Museum on Tuesday, September 30, 1941, with President Hildegard Howard in the chair and about 50 members and guests present. The minutes of the August meeting were approved as read. The following applications for membership were read: Miss Julianne G. Bayliss, 1206 W. 70th St., Los Angeles, Calif., proposed by Dr. Hildegard Howard; Mr. R. Elmer Belt, 1893 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif., proposed by Dr. Loye Miller; Mrs. Frances F. Roberts, Encinitas, Calif., Mr. Cecil A. Poole, 830 Chapman St., San Jose, Calif., and Walter A. Ross, 626 W. Caldwell St., Compton, Calif., proposed by W. Lee Chambers.

Under new business, Mr. Chambers announced the purchase of a new screen which was to become the property of the Cooper Club and was paid for by generous members.

President Howard then presented the speaker of the evening, Dr. Loye Miller, who gave a most interesting lecture entitled "Studying Nature by Sound." The meeting was then opened to discussion. Under observation Mrs. M. F. Coble mentioned seeing 50 Wood Ibis, many stilts, egrets, and cormorants at the Carlsbad sloughs.

George Willett gave a detailed and comprehensive report on the 1941 A.O.U. meeting held in Denver, Colorado. Mr. H. P. Davis raised the question pertaining to the revoking of scientific collecting permits and the likelihood of their renewal. George Willett and R. T. Moore made comments but could not answer the questions.

Adjourned.—IRWIN D. NOKES, *Secretary*.

OCTOBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Los Angeles Museum on Tuesday, October 28, 1941, with President Hildegard Howard in the chair and about 75 members and guests present. The minutes of the September meeting were approved as read. The following applications for membership were read: Gordon D. Alcorn, Grays Harbor College, Aberdeen, Washington, proposed by Dr. Alden H. Miller; Luther C. Goldman, P. O. Box 1242, Brawley, Calif., proposed by Alvin W. Elder; James Boswell Young, 2516 Talbott Ave., Louisville, Kentucky, and Ruth M. Price, 315 El Nido, Monrovia, Calif., proposed by W. Lee Chambers.

Dr. Howard then introduced the speaker of the evening, Dr. Clinton G. Abbott, who gave an illustrated lecture entitled "The Lure of Lower California."

The meeting was then opened to discussion and observations. W. A. Kent asked if there were any condors in Lower California. Lawrence Peyton answered in the affirmative, stating that they have been reported by Mrs. Solve Melling who lives at Rancho San Jose via San Telmo, Baja California, Mexico. Howard Cogswell reported seeing a Great Gray Owl on the Glacier Point Road in Yosemite, on September 17, 1941.

Adjourned.—IRWIN D. NOKES, *Secretary*.

#### NORTHERN DIVISION

OCTOBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, October 23, 1941, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President E. Lowell Sumner, Jr., in the chair and 37 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for September were read and approved. One proposal for membership was received: Mrs. C. D. Shane, 89 San Mateo Road, Berkeley, Calif., by Alden H. Miller.

Mr. Miller had found evidence of the nesting of Wood Ducks at Waddell Creek, Santa Cruz County; young ones not yet flying were present on September 15. Mr. Lowell Sumner said that Wood Ducks had nested for several years at Peters' Creek Pond, near the Skyline Boulevard and Alpine Creek Road. Milton Seibert reported a Lewis Woodpecker near Mills College, October 5.

Mr. Robert T. Orr, of the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, spoke on "The Behavior of Captive Galapagos Finches." Mr. Orr has had the opportunity of studying the finches secured in the Galapagos by David Lack, for the Zoological Society of London, early in 1939. Since it seemed inadvisable to attempt taking the birds to London at that time, they were offered to the California Academy. Mr. Kinsey housed the birds in his aviaries at Manor, Marin County, until proper facilities could be built at the academy, and gave invaluable advice on their feeding and care.

Subsequent survival has been excellent among the birds which were able to stand the trip, and 20 of the original 30 are still living, mostly of the species *fuliginosa* and *scandens*. Breeding has been successful, so that no difficulty has been experienced in maintaining the numbers of the more numerous species. All phases of the breeding cycle have been studied in detail by Mr. Orr.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

NOVEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, November

27, 1941, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President E. Lowell Sumner, Jr., in the chair and 45 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for October were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division were read. One application for membership was read: Le Von Lee, 721 Connelley Street, Clovis, New Mexico, proposed by R. Frank Hedges (April 29, 1941). The president announced that the next meeting would fall on the third Thursday of the month, December 18.

Frank Watson reported a White-throated Sparrow in full song, at Burlingame, San Mateo County, November 16. Mr. Covell brought several news items from Lake Merritt in Oakland. A new color-banded California Gull had appeared, with the combination used at Salt Lake, Utah. Pintail Ducks were learning to dive after the manner of the Canvas-backs. The American Egret was continuing its practice of last year of catching English Sparrows. Mr. Alden Miller had been discussing California Woodpecker populations with Dr. Ritter. An unusually large number of this species has been observed this season on the west side of the Berkeley Hills, and Mr. Miller asked for specific observations regarding the acorn crops, since moths have damaged the trees extensively east of the hills. Mr. Emlen had noted that in the Sacramento Valley the blue oaks produced almost no acorns this year, whereas the crop on the valley oaks was normal. Mrs. Allen commented on the numbers of Lewis Woodpeckers reported recently, especially in the area from Sunol to north of Orinda. The albino grebe at Dumbarton Bridge was present for the fourth consecutive season.

"Exploring the Ranges of Birds in Oregon" was the subject presented by the speaker of the evening. Mr. Alden Miller gave an account of the results of four summer field trips made by the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology into Oregon in the last nine years. Five major avifaunal groups may be separated, following the principal geographic features of the state: (1) the coast assemblage, along the coastal strip of hills and lowlands, (2) the montane or higher mountain group, on the high peaks separated by low gaps, (3) the Great Basin group, east of the Sierra-Cascade axis, (4) the Sonoran group, in the oak association, (5) the transcontinental or eastern group, which owes its presence in part to the mountain ranges making a fairly complete link with the Rockies. Examples of each group were discussed, and a vivid picture of the field work, including the adventures of owl hunting, was given.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.