

NOTES AND NEWS



Fig. 31. Alexander Wetmore, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, past president of the American Ornithologists' Union and authority on fossil birds.

In lieu of appropriate and deserving review, precluded because of lack of space, we call attention to several recent publications of special importance and usefulness:

The Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America, a Vade Mecum for the Naturalist and the Sportsman (American Wildlife Institute, Washington, D.C., 1943), by F. H. Kortright.

Bird Display, an Introduction to the Study of Bird Psychology (Cambridge University Press, 1942), by E. A. Armstrong.

The Roseate Spoonbill (Research Rept. No. 2, National Audubon Society, 1942 [=1943]), by R. P. Allen.

The Birds of Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska (Proc. Colo. Mus. Nat. Hist., 18, 1943:1-113) by A. M. Bailey.

Ten-year Index to the Auk, volumes 48-57, 1931-1940 (Amer. Ornith. Union, 1941 [=1943]), by H. S. Swarth and G. Willett.

Mr. John Laughlin of 900 Tildon Street, West Riverside, California, would appreciate receiving any information available about non-native doves in California. He is compiling information

for a paper on this subject. Details, no matter how trivial, are likely to be of importance. Interest centers especially in mating, nesting, food, rapidity of spread, dates and methods of introduction, and economic aspects.

The inappropriateness of the use of the word "common" as part of a vernacular name of a bird came forcefully to our attention while reading Snyder, Logier and Kurata's faunal paper on the Sault Ste. Marie region of Ontario (Trans. Royal Canadian Inst., 24, 1942:99-165). We note on page 142 the following: "Common Shrike.—An uncommon breeding bird of . . .," and "Common Starling.—A fairly common bird of . . ." The criticism here is not one of the authors cited, but of a "common" practice.—A.H.M.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

JANUARY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, January 28, 1943, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, with Harvey I. Fisher presiding and about 40 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for December, 1942, were read and corrected. There were five proposals for membership, all by Alden H. Miller: Gordon L. Bolander, 464 Fair Oaks Street, San Francisco, California; Verna R. Johnston, Thornton Township High School, Harvey, Illinois; James Kirkland Merrit, Taft School, Watertown, Connecticut; Clark E. Holscher and Edwin Joseph Woolfolk, both of the Forest and Range Experiment Station, Missoula, Montana.

The chairman of the nominating committee, Mrs. Amelia S. Allen, presented the following slate of officers for the coming year: President, Robert C. Miller; Vice-president, Lewis W. Taylor; Corresponding Secretary, Hilda W. Grinnell; Recording Secretary, Frances Carter. It was moved and carried that the nominations be closed and the secretary be instructed to cast an unanimous ballot for the officers named.

The chair was then accepted by the new president. Mr. Miller recalled his first attendance at a Cooper Club meeting, in the old sheet-iron museum building, at which time the idea that he would one day be president of the organization would have come as a great surprise to him.

Mr. Milton Ray reported the occurrence of a Raven in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, on December 9, 1942. Robert C. Miller added that this species occurs there occasionally. Milton Seibert reported a Road-runner in the hills of

east Oakland on December 27. At Mills College he had noted a few Slate-colored Juncos in a flock of about 80 Oregon Juncos. Among these was one albino with white patches on the cheeks. Mr. Covell mentioned a great concentration of waterfowl on San Leandro Bay, which he had noted on January 4. He also said that a company magazine in Richmond had printed a notice in the interest of securing information on color-banded gulls. Robert Storer has been helping in the matter of publicity among those who may have opportunities to make observations. Mrs. Austin reported sighting four gulls on Lake Merritt on January 23 bearing bands from the Egg Island (Salt Lake) and Utah Lake stations.

As speaker of the evening, Mr. Alden H. Miller gave an account of a winter visit to the Honey Lake Region with Harvey Fisher as companion. While extensive surveys of the avian populations of regions of northern California have been made in summer, winter data have been fragmentary.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

FEBRUARY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, February 25, 1943, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, with President Robert C. Miller in the chair and about 40 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for January were read and corrected. Minutes of the Southern Division for December, and the list of officers elected at the January meeting, were read. There was one proposal for membership: Helen B. Ray (Mrs. W. W.), P. O. Box 473, Arroyo Grande, California, by Alden H. Miller.

Mrs. Allen reported the singing of a Lutescent Warbler in Strawberry Canyon on February 21. Mr. Pursell reported the recent occurrence of Mockingbirds in north Berkeley at Visalia and Nielsen streets. Warren Fisher added that they had been plentiful in Piedmont Park this year. Vincent Mowbray discussed the change from comparative tameness to extreme wariness of birds around the housing project at Vallejo. R. C. Miller told of the strange coincidence of the death of two Cooper Hawks, within a few days, at the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. One had apparently been shot previously. The other struck a window while in pursuit of a small bird, perhaps as a result of the habit of darting through light apertures in dense trees.

As speaker of the evening, Mr. Robert C. Miller presented, "Four Hundred Years of Exploration in the Galapagos," illustrated with moving pictures taken by the Lack-Venables Expedition in 1938. A brief historical outline

preceded the showing of the pictures. The longest period ever spent there by a group of zoologists was put in by the California Academy of Sciences Expedition in 1905-6; this was followed by three shorter periods. The Lack-Venables Expedition, on behalf of the Zoological Society of London, brought back the most extensive illustrative material thus far obtained. The moving picture has been organized so as to present some of the most striking examples of speciation in the fauna of the islands.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

MARCH.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, March 25, 1943, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, with President Robert C. Miller in the chair and about 50 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for February were read and corrected. Minutes of the Southern Division for January were read. There were two proposals for membership: Paul Joseph Moore, Ohio Wildlife Research Station, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, by Jean M. Linsdale, and Philip L. (Incoln) Wright, Montana State University, Missoula, Montana, by Alden H. Miller.

Dr. Haley reviewed an article in a recent issue of *Nature Magazine*, by Donald Thompson, entitled, "Bush Birds Down Under." Mr. Alden H. Miller called attention to a recent article in *Time Magazine*, which told of a lottery established for the closest guess as to the time of hatching of the first albatross egg on Midway Island. It seems likely that more accurate information on the hatching date of these island birds will be obtained this year than ever before, with so many interested observers taking part in the game.

Arrival of the Western Warbling Vireo on the campus, west of Life Sciences Building, was noted by Miss Carter, March 20.

Mrs. Amelia S. Allen then read a delightful account of "a bird trip" covering 40 years and considerable territory—the story of the awakening and development of her interest in birds. Interwoven among the threads of this story were many accounts of places and persons involved in the recent history of ornithology in California. The growing list of species known through field study by song, plumage, and habits was an inspiration alike to serious student and fascinated amateur, told with a charming simplicity and directness of style.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

JANUARY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Tuesday, January 26,

1943, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 209, Allan Hancock Foundation, Los Angeles, California, with I. D. Nokes in the chair and 12 members and guests present. The minutes of the Southern Division for December, 1942, were approved as read. Four applications for membership were read, as follows: Ruth Emily Coats, 702 E. 1st St., Tillamook, Oregon, proposed by Alex Walker; Louis Edward Hoffman, 5617 Matilija Ave., Van Nuys, California, by George Willett; Richard Allen Reichel, 4265 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles, California, by Sherwin F. Wood; and Miss Belle Wilson, 81 W. King St., Banning, California, by John McB. Robertson.

A letter from Mr. E. P. Kincaid, Encinitas, California, urging the establishment of entire counties as bird refuges was read. After some discussion a motion tabling the proposal was made by George Willett, seconded by Dr. Hildegarde Howard, and unanimously approved. Dr. Nokes welcomed to the meeting two uninformed members, Jack C. von Bloeker, Jr., and Dr. Henry S. Fitch.

The President called for the report of the nominating committee, and Chairman George Willett proposed the following officers for the Southern Division for 1943: Dr. I. D. Nokes, President; Mr. George Cantwell, Vice-president; and Mr. Walter W. Bennett, Secretary. A motion closing the nominations, initiated by Mr. Willett and seconded by Dr. Howard, was passed and the officers as presented were elected by unanimous ballot.

Mr. Willett reported the recent publication of "Joseph Grinnell's Philosophy of Nature" by the University of California Press; this constitutes a compilation of selected papers by Dr. Grinnell.

Dr. Nokes then called for observations by members. Jack C. von Bloeker, Jr., reported watching a Raven imitating P-38 maneuvers in flight on December 15, 1942, on Santa Cruz Island. He also flushed a female Green-winged Teal from Prisoner's Canyon in the same locality. George Willett reported the presence of two Hooded Mergansers at Lincoln Park and a Cackling Goose at Westlake Park. Sherwin F. Wood reported a roaming flock of Western Bluebirds, House Finches, and Audubon Warblers foraging together on January 24, 1943, in La Crescenta.

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

FEBRUARY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held Tuesday, February 23, 1943, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 209, Allan Hancock Foundation, Los Angeles, California, with Dr. I. D. Nokes presiding and 33 members and guests present. Minutes of the January meeting were

approved. Applications for membership of the following were read: Chester M. Langenbeck, 315 N. Miller St., Santa Maria, California, proposed by W. Lee Chambers; George Dehnel, 4069 Hilldale Road, San Diego, California, proposed by Clinton G. Abbott; Harold Guyman Higgins, 352 N. 1st East, Price, Utah, proposed by Ross Hardy; and Keith L. Dixon, 7653 Sturgess St., La Mesa, California, proposed by Ken W. Stott, Jr.

Mr. George Willett reported he had several California records of nests of the Chinese Spotted Dove (*Spilopelia chinensis chinensis*), but all were at considerable height whereas information from China indicates they build at any distance from the ground. Mr. James B. Dixon reported two nests of this species near Escondido in recent years situated about twelve feet up in Acacia trees; they contained eggs in May. Mr. George Cantwell reported a nest now in use near his home.

A report on field studies near Escondido, California, entitled, "Life History of the White-tailed Kite" was given by Mr. James B. Dixon, illustrated by Kodachrome motion pictures taken by himself and his son, Ralph Dixon. He observed a tendency of the species to colonize and reported as many as 25 adult birds in one colony. The species often raises two broods per season, the second one frequently being larger than the first. In his studies he observed that mice were eaten exclusively. The female did all the nest building and incubating and there was little mortality in nestlings or fledglings. His motion pictures showed, among other things, mating flights.

Adjourned.—WALTER W. BENNETT, *Secretary*.

MARCH.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held Tuesday, March 20, 1943, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 209, Allan Hancock Foundation, Los Angeles, California, with Dr. I. D. Nokes presiding and 65 members and guests present. Minutes of the preceding meeting were approved. Applications for membership of the following were read: Paul H. Baldwin, Hawaii National Park, Hawaii, T.H., proposed by John McB. Robertson, and Mrs. Ruth Gardner Schmidt, 707½ W. 35th Place, Los Angeles, California, proposed by Frances L. Cramer.

It was decided upon motion to hold the regular annual all-day outdoor meeting of the Southern Division at Tapia Park, 37 miles northwest of Los Angeles, Sunday, May 9, 1943.

The group was privileged to hear a lecture by William L. Finley of Portland, Oregon, illustrated with excellent Kodachrome pictures of birds and mammals. In it he discussed many habits of birds observed in western states.

Adjourned.—WALTER W. BENNETT, *Secretary*.