

NOTES AND NEWS

A meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club will be held at the Los Angeles County Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, California, on Thursday, April 6, 1944, at 7:30 p.m., to transact necessary business.

Notice of this meeting and unsigned proxies will be sent to all members, and it is *very important* that proxies be signed and returned promptly.—GEORGE WILLETT, *Secretary, Board of Directors.*

In this issue of *The Condor* appear two features made possible through special contribution to the cost of publication. The color plate of *Neochloe* was provided for by Milton S. Ray, and a substantial part of the cost of the "Checklist of the Birds of Utah" was supplied by the University of Utah Research Committee. Through these generousities all members of the Club have benefitted, and the editors take pleasure in expressing the appreciation of the entire organization.—A.H.M.

The serious student of bird behavior will find useful a paper by N. E. Collias entitled "Aggressive Behavior Among Vertebrate Animals," published in the January, 1944, issue of *Physiological Zoology* (pp. 83-123). This paper represents a well organized review of selected literature on aggressive behavior as seen in the individual, the social group, the population, and the animal community, and exemplifies the point of view of Professor W. C. Allee and his students at the University of Chicago. For ornithologists it should serve to emphasize the fundamentally aggressive nature of bird behavior. A shortcoming of this, and frequently other, "synthesizing" articles is the scattered and limited nature of the evidence upon which the superstructure of ideas, at times top-heavy, must be built. We refer specifically to evidence from birds in nature. Thus, considerable emphasis is placed by Collias on Scott's studies of social mating groups in the Sage Grouse (*Auk*, 59, 1943:477-498). Scott apparently did not mark his birds. Observations begun before the war by the late James Moffitt and based on birds marked with paint led him to question the relatively extreme degree of dominance attributed to one "master cock" by Scott.—F.A.P.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

OCTOBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, October 28, 1943, with L. W. Taylor in the chair and about 20 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for September were read and

approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for October were read. Names proposed for membership in the Club were: Earl L. Ninnis, 126 Romie Lane, Salinas, California, by Jean M. Linsdale, and Alexander F. Skutch, Quizarra de Perez Zeldon, Costa Rica, by Frank A. Pitelka.

Mrs. Kelly opened field reports with the announcement of the expected Red-backed Sandpipers at Alameda during mid-October, one having been seen as early as October 2. A late record for the Western Flycatcher was October 23 in Dimond Canyon. No small menace to victory gardens in Alameda was the influx of Gambel White-crowned Sparrows, 50 of which were roosting in Mrs. Kelly's yard. Dr. Haley remarked that farmers could not agree on the desirability of the existence of horned larks, which habitually eat the cotyledons from young bean sprouts.

As speaker of the evening, Mr. Alden H. Miller presented a paper entitled "Social Parasites Among Birds," in which he discussed the breeding habits of such species as the cowbirds of North and South America and the European cuckoo.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary.*

NOVEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, November 18, 1943, with Vice-president L. W. Taylor presiding and 20 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for October were read and corrected.

The Chairman gave a brief summary of the meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union.

Alden H. Miller reviewed a recent item in the *Transactions of the Linnean Society of New York: Studies in the Life History of the Song Sparrow II; Behavior of the Song Sparrow and other Passerines*, by Margaret Morse Nice. It will be remembered that the first paper in this study appeared in 1937.

Field reports were opened by Lt. Kenneth Stager, who reviewed the reports on the birds of Camp Roberts which he had recently presented before the Southern Division. Of outstanding interest were the presence of the Phainopepla as a winter resident, and the numbers of Yellow-billed Magpies which had taken advantage of the sanctuary provided by the Military Reservation. Mr. Covel presented a list of species observed at Yosemite Valley in the first week in July, including Pygmy Owl, Sierra Grouse, Solitaires, and a Wood Duck with young.

The speaker of the evening was Vincent Mowbray, of the Employment Office of the Mare Island Navy Yard, California, who chose as his

subject, "Wartime Construction versus Birds." Living in one of the new housing projects, Mr. Mowbray has been able to compare the bird life in his neighborhood, in a hilly region, with that of similar adjacent hills which have remained undisturbed.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary*.

DECEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, December 16, 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 thirty members and guests present. Minutes for the Northern Division for November were approved as read. There were two proposals for regular membership in the club: Mr. Lancelot Eric Richdale, 23 Skibo Street, Kew, Dunedin, New Zealand, by Alden H. Miller; and Mr. Ben W. Stillwell, P. O. Box 50, Carmel, California, by Kenneth E. Stager.

The President appointed a nominating committee consisting of Mrs. Sheldon, Dr. Benson, and Mr. Dixon to present nominations for officers of the club for the coming year.

The question of the advisability of introducing the wild turkey into California was discussed at some length. Mr. Gordon True of the State Division of Fish and Game said that the Division was not sold on the idea of attempting to introduce wild turkeys into the state, particularly as unsuccessful attempts had been made in the past. Mr. A. Starker Leopold said that to date no one had been able to maintain a breeding stock of pure-bred wild birds.

President Miller then introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr. A. Starker Leopold of the Missouri Conservation Commission, who spoke on his studies of the wild turkey in Missouri. Comparative studies of the breeding habits of wild birds and of the hybrid (wild x domesticated) birds which have been used for restocking were made in an attempt to determine why restocking was unsuccessful. Mr. Leopold concluded his interesting paper with remarks on the inadvisability of attempting to introduce the wild turkey into California.

Adjourned.—ROBERT W. STORER, *Acting Secretary*.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

NOVEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held Tuesday, November 30, 1943, at 8:00 p.m. in Room 145, Allan Hancock Foundation, Los Angeles, Calif., with President I. D. Nokes in the chair.

Application for membership was read from Lee R. Dice, Laboratory of Vertebrate Biology,

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich., proposed by John McB. Robertson.

A report of a number of species of birds being eaten by a pair of Duck Hawks regularly roosting in the same city location was made by H. L. Cogswell. Members present indicated they favored protection of these birds in spite of their depredations. A. J. van Rossem noted that he once saw a kingfisher in Arizona dive and catch a lizard on the desert and asked if others had noted the eating of similar food by the species. Mrs. Mary V. Hood reported they had been seen catching grasshoppers in the Arroyo Seco near Los Angeles.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Kent had observed on November 29, 1943, a fight between a Prairie Falcon, which evidently possessed a certain field for feeding, and an intruding Red-tailed Hawk. As the former would swoop at the latter, the larger bird would put out its talons for protection. H. L. Cogswell reported having seen a similar clash in which the Red-tailed Hawk flew into an oak tree where the Prairie Falcon would not go. Other remarks were made by S. B. Peyton and Loye Miller.

The lecture of the evening was given by A. J. van Rossem on the subject, "Mexican Birds that Cross or Approach the United States Boundary," illustrated by a large number of skins. He pointed out that since the '80's there has been an apparent movement northward of many species whose common distribution was in Sonora, such as the Black Vulture, Cooper-tailed Trogon, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Scarlet-headed Oriole, and others.

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

DECEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held Tuesday, December 28, 1943, at 8:00 p.m. in Room 145, Allan Hancock Foundation, University Avenue and 36th Place, Los Angeles, with President I. D. Nokes presiding.

The application for membership of Robert Lewis Quinsey, 932½ Via Wanda 48, Long Beach 5, California, was read as proposed by Dr. Sarah Atsatt.

President Nokes appointed a nominating committee consisting of Loye Miller, chairman, Hildegard Howard, and Howard Robertson.

Sidney D. Platford reported that Pintails, probably starting a northward migration, were plentiful enough to cause complaints of crop damage. The principal address of the evening was by Dr. Sarah Atsatt, on the subject of "Nature Trails in South Africa," illustrated in Kodachrome which she had taken.

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