

complishments, and to the author of "Alaska Bird Trails" for a notable addition to ornithological literature.—G. WILLETT.

#### MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS SOUTHERN DIVISION

**MARCH.**—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Tuesday, March 29, 1944, at 8:00 p.m. in Room 145, Allan Hancock Foundation, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, with President A. J. van Rossem in the chair, and sixteen members and guests present.

Mr. A. W. Elder of the Fish and Wildlife Service reported an investigation of damage to crops by ducks in Imperial Valley. Probably due to travel restrictions and shortage of ammunition there was a great increase in numbers of waterfowl in the winter of 1943-1944. On the Alamo River State Game Refuge alone, there were an estimated 223,000 ducks in January. Much of the crop damage was believed due to lack of natural food on and around the refuge. Baldpates were particularly damaging to lettuce, alfalfa, rice and other green crops.

In the attempt to lessen crop damage, the duck season was extended locally for two months. About 3000 hunters killed an estimated 7000 ducks. The killing of this comparatively small number of birds was probably less helpful than the scaring away of larger numbers by shooting.

S. D. Platford reported poisoning of red-wings officially sanctioned by Supervisors of Butte County. Allegedly they were damaging crops.

George Willett exhibited a deformed skull of a domestic mallard, taken from a bird which had on its head a large crest of feathers similar to those on its belly. The skull had an opening about three-fourths of an inch in diameter in the posterior part of the parietal, and a bony plate of similar size extending posteriorly from the lower left side of the opening. Although a considerable portion of the brain was without bony protection, the bird was in excellent physical condition when killed.

Adjourned.—C. HENNE, *Acting Secretary*.

**APRIL.**—The annual outdoor meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held Sunday, April 30, 1944, at the San Gabriel River Bird Sanctuary, east of Los Angeles. During the day, members enjoyed various field trips showing particular interest in the Cardinal which has been introduced into the area successfully.

After an afternoon picnic dinner, a business meeting was presided over by A. J. van Rossem. Minutes of the February and March meetings were read and approved. Minutes of the Northern Division for February were read by title. Applications for membership were read as follows:

Nelson David Hoy, 500 Sharon Ave., Sharon Hill, Pennsylvania; Emerson Stringham, Box 2172, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas; George Wagner, 546 Washington Ave., Palo Alto, California; and Roger Warren Powell, Lincoln Auto Court, Cheyenne, Wyoming, all proposed by W. Lee Chambers.

It was noted by Mr. van Rossem that the migration of Lutescent, Townsend, and Hermit warblers was taking place at the time of the meeting. Loye Miller reported Myrtle Warblers present regularly in West Los Angeles up to February 1. Mr. Walter I. Allen reported three Band-tailed Pigeon nests in use then on his estate in Altadena and stated he had found occupied nests every month of the year except December. One pair of White-winged Doves was noted near Indian Wells by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Davis on March 6, 1944. Mr. George Willett moved and it was duly voted to advise the Los Angeles Audubon Society of the Club's appreciation for their kindness and hospitality of the occasion.

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

#### NORTHERN DIVISION

**JUNE.**—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, June 22, 1944, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, Calif., with President Robert C. Miller in the chair and about 150 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division were read and approved. The following proposals for membership were read: Mrs. James S. Cooper, 310 Howard Ave., Piedmont, Calif.; Edith Dyer Champion (Mrs. L. F.), 805 Indian Rock Ave., Berkeley 7, Calif.; and Leonard H. Day, 212 E Street, Davis, Calif., all by Hilda W. Grinnell; and Elizabeth H. Smith (Mrs. Wayne H.), Camp New Pass, Austin, Nevada, by Jean M. Linsdale.

Bert Harwell told of six pairs of Trumpeter Swans captured and later released in Oregon last fall. Mrs. Kelly reported Audubon Warblers, probably with young, at Ross, Marin County, on June 17.

The speaker of the evening, Dr. T. Eric Reynolds, Capt. M. C., U.S.N.R., gave an account of "Some Bird Observations in the Solomon and New Hebrides groups of islands." He named a number of ornithologists now in the southwest Pacific whom he has met. Following brief comments on the geography of these islands, Dr. Reynolds described the appearance and behavior of common species, interspersing his accounts with anecdotes of "birding" in war zones. At the close of the talk, study-skins of the birds collected by Dr. Reynolds on the islands were displayed.

Adjourned.—ALICE S. MULFORD, *Recording Secretary*.