

NOTES AND NEWS



Fig. 22. Rollo H. Beck of Planada, California, for many years a student and collector of birds, who has recently been elected to honorary membership in the Cooper Ornithological Club. He is perhaps best known for his important share in bringing together material and information on oceanic birds. A biographical account of Mr. Beck may be found in R. C. Murphy's "Oceanic Birds of South America."

The annual meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club this year is to be held on May 7, 8 and 9 at Pacific Grove, on the Monterey Peninsula, California. Point Lobos State Park, the Hastings Reservation, and other points of ornithological interest are all within easy driving distance. The Committee for Arrangements and Program consists of J. M. Linsdale, Ferdinand S. Ruth, and Laidlaw Williams in the Monterey area, and A. H. Miller, F. A. Pitelka (chairman), and R. W. Storer at Berkeley. A call for papers will soon be mailed to members, who are urged to plan their contributions to the program without delay.

Perusal of the files of the *Ornithologist* and *Oologist*, *The Auk*, *Zoe*, *The Nidologist* and per-

sonal letters brings to light some facts about the history of the ornithological urge that occurred in California just prior to the organization of the Cooper Ornithological Club.

An informal meeting was called of the ornithologists within reach of San Francisco, at the California Academy of Sciences, on January 19, 1889, by Mr. Walter E. Bryant, to band together for the mutual benefit of studying the little known habits of bird life in relation to the good instead of detriment to the agriculturist and horticulturist. Those present were W. E. Bryant, F. W. Andros, C. A. Kellar, T. S. Palmer, W. O. Emerson, R. H. Taylor, and Wm. Flint. A second meeting was called on February 9, 1889, and The California Ornithological Club was officially organized. The officers were: president, Walter E. Bryant; vice-president, Harry R. Taylor; secretary and treasurer, W. Otto Emerson. Another meeting was held on September 14 and D. A. Cohen was elected as a corresponding member.

The newly organized club did not seem to function regularly, for on February 10, 1891, we find that a reorganization meeting was held with the following in attendance: Bryant, Taylor, Johnson, Holmes, Keller, and Macdonald. H. R. Taylor was elected president, F. O. Johnson, vice-president, and C. A. Kellar, secretary and treasurer. Messrs. E. Carleton, Thurber, Bancroft and T. E. Slevin were proposed for active memberships. *Zoe* was made the official organ for publication.

I have been unable to locate any more records of meetings of this early ornithologically inclined group until they finally settled on the name Cooper Ornithological Club on June 22, 1893.—
W. LEE CHAMBERS.

We have often wondered why there are many reports of "anting" behavior among birds of the eastern part of North America and few or none for western species. Are the birds, the ants, or the observers at fault? We suspect that one of the latter two differ critically in this regard. If there are geographic variables in this problem, their elucidation may help to establish the meaning of this behavior which thus far has proved baffling.

For a recent discussion of this subject, see Brackbill (*Auk*, 65, 1948:66-77).

Studies in recent years at Louisiana State University have demonstrated the practicability and desirability of making counts at night of migrating birds by use of a small telescope focused on the moon. The number of birds seen in this measurable portion of the sky furnishes an index to the total number passing over a given observation station. The telescopic method also provides a means of computing the direction and altitude of flight. From these data it will be eventually possible to determine to what extent night migrants follow set pathways, whether the flights are continuous in equal volume throughout the hours of darkness, and in what way certain meteorological conditions affect the density and direction of migration. However, large numbers of observations are necessary to obtain results of statistical significance. An intensive program of study in the spring of 1948 is being directed from Louisiana State University. Observation stations ranging from Florida to eastern Mexico and from the Yucatan Peninsula north to southern Michigan are already scheduled for operation. But many more such stations are urgently needed. Any Cooper Ornithological Club member with access to a spotting scope or a low-powered astronomical telescope who is willing to collaborate in this project, is asked to communicate immediately with George H. Lowery, Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Detailed instructions and data sheets will be provided at once so as to permit observations in the full moon periods of April and May.

COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

OCTOBER.—The monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, October 23, 1947, in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, with 75 members and guests present. The following proposals for membership were read: Geil Anne Bartels, 2535 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley 4, Calif., Rose Bronz, 2247 Derby St., Berkeley 5, Calif., Henry E. Childs, 335 Pleasant St., Rumford 16, Rhode Island, Robert L. Eberhardt, 1111 High Court, Berkeley 8, Calif., Richard F. Shaw, 271 Colusa Ave., Berkeley 7, Calif., and Sidney J. Townsley, 2517 Parker St., Berkeley 4, Calif., by Henry E. Childs, Jr.; Louis

Locke, 2410 College Ave., Berkeley 4, Calif., by A. Starker Leopold; Adele M. Zimmerman, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley 4, Calif., by Susan E. Chattin; William J. Beecher, Chicago Natural History Museum, Chicago 5, Ill., and R. H. Gibson, R. R. 2, Box 336, St. Helena, Calif., by Frank A. Pitelka; A. Laurence Curl, 2715 Benvenue Ave., Berkeley 5, Calif., and Oliver Payne Pearson, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley 4, Calif., by Charles G. Sibley.

Mrs. Junea W. Kelly, the speaker of the evening, reported on the 1947 migration at Rockport, Texas.—CHARLES G. SIBLEY, *Secretary*.

NOVEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, November 18, 1947, in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, with 100 members and guests present. Proposals for membership were read as follows: Don C. Fisher, Lava Beds National Monument, Tulelake, Calif., and Andrew J. Meyerrieks, 119-30 146th St., South Ozone Park 20, Long Island, N.Y., by Alden H. Miller, and Eugene Eisenmann, 11 Broadway, New York 4, N.Y., by Frank A. Pitelka.

The speaker of the evening, Mr. Carl Eklund, Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, presented a movie of birds and other wildlife observed on the First Byrd Antarctic Expedition.—CHARLES G. SIBLEY, *Secretary*.

DECEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, December 18, 1947, in Room 2000 Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, with 175 members and guests present. Proposals for membership were read as follows: Mrs. Russell P. Hastings, 3525 Pacific Ave., San Francisco 18, by Hilda W. Grinnell; Laird M. Williams, 1710 Arch St., Berkeley 9, by Jean M. Nelson; Raymond E. Jessop, 2338 Haste St., Berkeley 4, Bruce F. Provin, 1814 Chestnut St., Oakland, and William McBlair, 2451 Church Lane, San Pablo, all in California, by R. R. Ronkin; Morgan Harris, 1212 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, Calif., by Frank A. Pitelka; Russell H. Pray, 662 Santa Rosa Ave., Berkeley 7, Margaret J. Milwain, 731 Alma Ave., Oakland 10, and Mrs. Charles A. Harris, Rt. 1, Box 100, Carmel, all in California, by Charles G. Sibley.

Mrs. Eric Reynolds, the speaker of the eve-