

Type. No. 288, ♀ worn nuptial plumage, McGregor Coll., Westport, Mendocino Co., California, May 28, 1889. Wing 2.28; tail 2.10; exposed culmen .42.

Co-type. No. 287, ♂ worn nuptial plumage, McGregor Coll., Westport, Mendocino Co., California, May 28, 1889. Wing 2.38; tail 2.22; exposed culmen .42.

Range. Coast of Mendocino County.

The name is taken from Cleone, the town where three of the specimens were collected.

Mr. A. W. Anthony has kindly loaned me a large series of song sparrows which he took on Coronado Island, Lower California. These are undoubtedly of the same variety as the sparrow on San Clemente Island. The range of *Melospiza melodia clementæ* is therefore extended to include the Mexican islands named.

If the specific name *Melospiza melodia* (Wilson) be reinstated as suggested in the *Auk* XVI, 183, then the song sparrow described by me in the March BULLETIN should stand *Melospiza melodia ingersolli*.



Lassoing a California Vulture.

BY F. STEPHENS, WITCH CREEK, SAN DIEGO CO., CAL.

[Read before the Northern Division of the Cooper Orn. Club, Sept. 2, 1899.]

I HAD heard of California Vultures being lassoed, but had been somewhat skeptical of the actual occurrence, because I had never seen their near relatives, the Turkey Vultures, gorged to the necessary extent. As others may have doubted the probability of this statement also I will relate the circumstances of the capture of a California Vulture near here with a riata.

May 24, 1899, I was at the principal dairy of the Santa Ysabel Rancho. Late in the afternoon Massimo Morelli, a Swiss vaquero employed on the ranch, came to me and said he had that afternoon caught a California Vulture with his riata and it was then at one of the other dairies, alive in a box. I arranged to purchase it and sent a wagon after the bird, which he returned with it after dark. As the box it was in was too small to allow the bird to stand upright I changed its quarters, but it seemed unable to stand up. I meant to keep it alive some time to study its habits in captivity and photograph it; however in the morning it was dead, greatly to my disappointment. On skinning it I found the flesh discolored on the lower part of the neck and believe the choking of the rope caused its death. The bird was an adult male in fair condition; weight 20 pounds; stomach nearly empty; length 45 inches; spread of wing 112 inches.

I have known Morelli several years, and know him to be reliable. The following is his account of the capture. He was out on the range looking after the stock as usual. Shortly after noon he saw this vulture at the carcass of a calf. As the bird seemed stupid he made a dash at it and threw his riata over its neck before it rose. He says the bird ran but did not seem able to fly. The bird proved difficult to handle, and struggled so that he was afraid it would get away, so he tied its wings together across its back with his handkerchief, and finally had to lash the bird to a pole to keep it from flapping under his horses feet, as he was afraid to drag it behind him too much. Massimo says when he caught the bird it disgorged and stunk horribly. From his manner I fancied that he received more of the veal than he liked. The bird struck him several severe blows with his bill.



H. R. PAINTON of College Park, a well known member of the Club, is serving his second term as principal of the New Almaden, Cal. public school.

W. B. JUDSON of Los Angeles has returned after a two years' absence in Dawson City, where he had mining interests.