

General News Notes.

TWO MORE EGGS OF CALIFORNIA CONDOR.

The various collectors of Mr. H. R. Taylor have, up to March 20th, been very successful in their field work. Besides thirteen sets of Golden Eagle and four sets of five eggs of the Prairie Falcon, they were fortunate enough to collect an almost perfectly fresh egg of California Condor on March 19 in Monterey Co. The nesting place was betrayed by the parent bird flying from the nest in the face of a cliff 500 feet high, the pot-hole in which the egg was laid being 350 feet from the bottom and the egg was secured by lowering the collector with a rope. The size of the hole was about sixteen inches at its entrance, opening or broadening inwardly to a chamber six feet long, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide and two feet high. The egg was laid on the bare sand and is ashy green in color, deeply pitted all over and, like some other specimens that have passed through Mr. Taylor's hands, has several warty excrescences on the surface somewhat larger than a pin head in size. The texture is close grained, and the egg glossy, measuring 4.44×2.66 inches. It is noticeable that these eggs lose their greenish cast within a few years after having been collected and this accounts for apparently conflicting statements in published articles on the species. From the dozen or more authentic examples now in collections it is reasonably sure that the egg of the California Condor varies in two essential particulars from those of other members of the American *Cathartidae*. First, they are always unspotted; secondly, one egg constitutes a full set.

LATER. Since the above was written Mr. Taylor's field men have come in from another two weeks' trip in which they were successful in taking their second condor's egg of the season on March 26 from a pot-hole in the face of a sandstone bluff in San Luis Obispo Co., Cal. The egg measures 4.38×2.63 .

It is strong textured with a heavily glossed shell surface and the same wart-like protuberances mentioned in the first egg. Mr. Taylor's collectors also added a series of Prairie Falcons, all sets of five eggs each, one more set of Golden Eagle $\frac{1}{2}$, a heavily reddish set of Duck Hawk and minor sets of hawks and owls. All these sets, including both condors' eggs, have been acquired by Miss Jean Bell of Pennsylvania.

A BRIGHT, typically Western magazine is *The Land of Sunshine* published at Los Angeles, Cal., and edited by Mr. Chas. F. Lummis. It ranks perhaps as the leading monthly of the West in many respects, abounding in choice stories of fiction and romance, essays on California's natural beauties and wonders, and an array of able editorial comment, all combined with a journalistic dexterity that savors of originality. Its substantial features are supplemented with a profusion of half-tones of rare subjects, which make the 60 to 70 page journal a veritable treat. The February number contains a notable character sketch of the late Dr. Coues, with recent photographs, by Mr. Lummis. The February and March issues are graced with entertaining essays on California wild flowers in midwinter, with photographs, by Mr. Chas. Amadon Moody, while the April number contains some remarkable photographs of living wild birds by Elizabeth and Joseph Grinnell, together with appropriate text. Many features of *The Land of Sunshine* appeal directly to the nature lover, and its many praiseworthy elements all go to round out a distinctly bright journal. Los Angeles, Cal., \$1 a year.

THE appearance of the *Proceedings of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union* brings to prominent notice the association of Nebraska ornithologists which will be known as the Nebraska Ornith-

ologists' Union. On Dec. 16, 1899, the organization of the society was accomplished and the following officers elected: Prof. Lawrence Bruner, President; I. S. Trostler, Vice-President; Dr. R. H. Wolcott, Recording Secretary and W. D. Hunter, Corresponding Secretary. The *Proceedings* of the Union consist of a complete report of the first annual meeting and embraces forty-four pages in which are found the constitution and by-laws of the Union and nine papers of value read before the meeting. The whole is neatly printed on heavy book paper and forms a report that would do credit to a much older organization. It is to be hoped that this association of Nebraskan ornithologists will do much to increase our knowledge of the avifauna of the region, and judging from the excellent commencement, this bids fair to be carried out to an unexpected degree.

ANOTHER notable Californian egg collection has recently passed out of the state, it being in this instance the collection of Mr. Henry Ward Carriger, formerly of Sonoma, Cal. It has followed the pathway of several other western cabinets and Miss Jean Bell of Ridley Park, Penn., becomes the fortunate possessor, thus adding one more complete collection to her already magnificent museum. Mr. Carriger's collection contained many choice individual sets as well as valuable series, all personally taken by him in the vicinity of his former home. One set deserving of especial mention was 1-6 California Pygmy Owl (*Glaucidium gnoma californicum*) taken near Sonoma. Mr. Carriger's ability and success in the field was manifest throughout the choice collection.

THE *Auk* for April records the death of one active and three associate members of the A. O. U., who were well known to many workers on the coast. George B. Sennett, an active member, died March 18 at the age of 59 years. Francis C. Browne of Framingham,

Mass., passed away in January at the age of 70, while John A. Dakin of Syracuse, N. Y. and Foster H. Brackett of Boston each died after a brief illness. Mr. Brackett was very favorably known to many Californian workers through his cordial correspondence and finely-prepared bird skins, many of which grace Californian cabinets. He had in process, previous to his death, an extended list of the birds observed about Boston, which, it is to be hoped, will be secured and published.

ON behalf of the American Ornithologists' Union, Mr. Abbott H. Thayer has addressed to the public, through the press, an appeal for funds to protect from slaughter the gulls and terns of the Atlantic Coast. He recounts their valuable work as scavengers in the harbors, and states that already their ranks have been decimated by the plume hunter. Those who are willing to contribute to a fund for the protection of the gulls and terns are requested to address Wm. Dutcher, Treasurer, 525 Manhattan Ave., New York City.

MR. H. B. TORREY, a member of the Cooper Club, who has been studying at the Columbia University in New York, has been appointed a Fellow in the Department of Zoology in recognition of his ability. Mr. Torrey's home is at Berkeley, Cal.

AT the meeting of the California Academy of Sciences held in San Francisco April 16, Mr. Joseph Grinnell gave a general talk on "Birds of the Arctic in Midwinter."

UNDER the editorship of Mr. Reginald Heber Howe Jr., of Longwood, Brookline, Mass., has appeared a neat four to six page publication entitled *Notes on Rhode Island Ornithology*, devoted, as its title implies, to notes on, and records of Rhode Island birds. The publication is a neat one and full of valuable data judging from the January and April numbers at hand. The paper will be published as a quarterly.