

photograph taken at a distance of five feet. She seemed to feel that the two little pearls under her were perfectly safe in her keeping, and I am happy to add that she was not disappointed. On the 17th of April a set of two eggs of the same species was found on the point of hatching.

A nest of the Bush-Tit (*Psaltriparus minimus*) containing seven fresh eggs was noted April 12. One of the most curious changes in nesting habits has occurred this season in a colony of Brewer's Blackbirds (*Scolecophagus cyanocephalus*.) In previous years they have nested in holes of the Red-shafted Flicker high up in some dead firs, but a visit a few days ago disclosed the remarkable fact that every bird is nesting in gooseberry bushes, no more than three feet from the ground. There is no apparent reason for this change of some seventy-five feet in altitude, for the holes used in previous seasons still appear to be in as good condition as ever.

J. H. BOWLES, Tacoma, Wash.

Western Winter Wren in Santa Clara Co., Cal.—I notice that Mr. Van Denburgh's county list does not give the Western Winter Wren (*Anorthura hiemalis pacifica*) as occurring in Santa Clara County. One specimen was taken Feb. 17, 1900, at Stevens Creek by a party of Stanford students, and is now in my collection.

ROBERT E. BRUCE, Stanford University, Cal.

Book Reviews

BIRD STUDIES WITH A CAMERA.—By Frank M. Chapman, pp. 214, with numerous half-tone illustrations. D. Appleton & Co., New York. Cloth. \$1.75.

In this day of bird photography, when enthusiasts are afield by the score each summer seeking out the haunts of nesting birds, it is a pleasure to be taken into the confidence of one who speaks not authoritatively of his own work, but whose results bear eloquent testimony of his adaptability to bird photography. Unquestionably Mr. Chapman holds the position in America which the Kearton Bros. have long held in England,—that of the most successful portrayer of bird life with the camera.

In his substantially entertaining book Mr. Chapman does not stop to indulge in photographic theories and the like, but proceeds at once to illustrate his subject in a most pleasing manner. After discussing briefly and generally the apparatus necessary for successful field work, and explaining the work which may be expected of the various patterns of lenses, the author has combined his experiences into appropriate groups and takes the reader afield with him to witness, in imagination, just how the various negatives were secured.

There is not a dry paragraph in the book, nor scarcely one which does not relate Mr. Chapman's personal experiences, all of which gives the work immeasurably greater interest than would a mere treatise on the subject. The chapter delineating the home life of the Chickadee and portraying a family of nine fledglings is one of the most delightful in the book, although the chapter devoted to photography in a swamp would prove a close second.

Over 100 excellent half-tone illustrations by the author, depicting marsh, land, shore and sea birds in their homes, lend additional charm to the volume. Those who have already engaged in similar work afield will find many excellent suggestions in the work, while the beginner will be enthusiastically impressed with the field of delightful possibilities which lies before him. *Bird Studies With a Camera* is easily the most striking and valuable work on bird photography which has appeared in America.—C. B.

A MONOGRAPH OF THE FLICKER (*Colaptes auratus*).—By Frank L. Burns. Wilson Bulletin No. 31. April, 1900, pp. 82. One plate.

Another substantial publication is credited to the Wilson Ornithological Chapter in the appearance of this exceedingly complete publication. Mr. Burns has collaborated his results in a more systematic and pleasing manner than even that which marked the able Crow Bulletin issued under his supervision some years ago, and the present publication is in fact what the name implies,—a monograph. The paper opens with a list of the scientific and vernacular synonyms of this species, the latter reaching the surprising number of 88, and giving the localities in which each name is current. The life history of the species is then taken up in consecutive chapters such as Geographical Distribution, Flight, Migration, Roosting, Voice, Mating, Nidification, Eggs, Incubation, Young, Molt, Food, Plumage, Hybridism, Atavism, each chapter being singularly valuable in its deductions. The entire paper is obviously the product of careful study and thought and embraces notes from a wide list of field workers. This monograph should be in the library of every working ornithologist.

LEGISLATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF

BIRDS OTHER THAN GAME BIRDS.—In this publication constituting Bulletin No. 12 of the Department of Agriculture, Mr. T. S. Palmer discusses protective legislation, and in separate chapters refers to Game Birds, Birds Erroneously Considered Game Birds, Insectivorous and Song Birds, Plume Birds, and other groups, defining the species which properly belong to each. The paper comments upon the needed enforcement of existing protective statutes and suggests the adoption of further restrictive laws. The laws of each state and territory protecting game and song birds are given in full, and the 90 pages constituting this bulletin will be found a complete digest for those interested in the subject.



Communications

The A. O. U. Associate Membership

Editors of THE CONDOR:

The question discussed by Mr. Daggett in the last issue of this paper is one which undoubtedly interests many of the associate members of the A. O. U., and for an answer we must look to the active members.

During the last few years the associate membership has greatly increased and it seems to be the policy of the A. O. U. to include therein anyone who will pay \$3 a year as subscription to the *Auk*. The consequence is that the associates now include many who have no claim to be called ornithologists or oologists; some are not even Audubonists.

I think we all agree with Mr. Daggett that the standard of membership in the active list should be high, too high for most of us, who have but a little time to devote to our favorite study. Though we cannot aspire to be numbered among the august fifty, we do feel that there should be some distinction between the amateur ornithologist and the bird protectionist. Because a woman declines to wear mangled bird remains on her hat or as trimming for her clothing, is she to be called an ornithologist?

There are two possible remedies. The active membership might be greatly increased or a new class of members established, a sort of junior active membership. There are four kinds of members already and another kind would do no harm.

The fact that there are now three vacancies in the active list indicates that none of the associates are considered eligible to membership among the fifty.

I have but little time to spend with my birds and am content to be connected in any way with the A. O. U., but I do register a kick against being placed in the same class with Audubonists and fad protectionists.

RICHARD C. MCGREGOR.

Seattle, Wash.

GENERAL NEWS NOTES.

AN especially pleasing wedding took place at Oakland, Cal. on June 6 when Mr. Wm. W. Price, a prominent member of the Cooper Ornithological Club, was united in marriage to Miss Bertha de Laguna. Mr. Price has established a record for careful and energetic ornithological work on the Coast, among his best early field work being the taking of the first nest and eggs of the Red-faced Warbler in the mountains of Arizona. He has since done extensive scientific work in the Sierra Nevada Mts. and along the lower Colorado River. Several years since Mr. Price conceived the idea of establishing a summer school for young students in the heart of the Sierras, and the popularity of his classes was at once pronounced. Those who have been with Mr. Price afield have returned only to admire his intense congeniality and ability as an ornithologist. The members of the Cooper Ornithological Club, besides his numerous friends elsewhere, will unite as one in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Price every good fortune and pleasure in life.

PERCY SELOUS, prominently identified with Michigan ornithology, and favorably known as an authority in other sciences, died on April 7 at his home from the result of a bite of a poisonous snake, of which he had a number, kept for the purpose of study. Mr. Selous was at one time an associate editor of the *Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club*, and in recent years has been a prolific writer in various natural history journals. His sudden death will be widely felt by the ornithological fraternity.

THREE members of the Cooper Club, Messrs. L. E. Taylor, W. L. Atkinson and C. Barlow spent the interval of June 4--12 in the higher Sierras collecting specimens. During the trip an ascent was made to the summit of Pyramid Peak, an altitude of 10,020 feet. Specimens of the Gray-crowned Leucosticte, California Pine Grosbeak, White-crowned Sparrow and other interesting Sierra birds were collected. The oological results of the trip may form the basis for a future paper.

WILFRED H. OSGOOD of the Biological Survey accompanied by Edmund Heller of Stanford, as assistant, sailed from Seattle in May. These gentlemen have been detailed to make collections of birds and mammals on the islands off the coast of British Columbia and as far north as practicable. It is expected that the material collected will contain many forms connecting the faunæ of Alaska with those of Washington and the results are awaited with interest.

JOSEPH GRINNELL is acting as instructor in embryology at the Stanford summer school now in session at the Hopkins Laboratory at Pacific Grove, Cal.