

## THE CONDOR.

Bulletin of the

### COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB OF CALIFORNIA.

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and as Official Organ of the Club.

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#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

**Value of Club Spirit.** Ornithological societies are like other similar organized movements, in that they are strengthened by the unity of purpose and action of their members. Those attending the annual meeting of the Northern Division of the Club in January last could scarcely failed to have been impressed with the business-like attitude of each member present, indicating that each had some suggestion to offer or some plan to consummate, whereby the interests of the Club should be advanced.

Enjoyable as are such gatherings of ornithologists, and strong as may be the tendency to lapse into absorbing bird questions, at the meeting in question an immense volume of important business was transacted and plans were evolved which may prove far-reaching in their effects. This is a pleasant thing to contemplate, when each member takes freely upon himself a share of the Club work and responsibility, and goes forward with that energy which denotes a *purpose*.

Such is the enthusiasm and spirit which pervades the Cooper Ornithological Club today. The writer has mentioned the Northern Division merely because he may speak in person, but precisely the same energy and forces are at work in the Southern Division. The Cooper Ornithological Club is perhaps the most continuously active bird club in America today. It has a great field of possibilities before it, and its members believe that its energy is being directed in the proper channels.

Increased membership, with its consequent added moral and financial support, is desirable

in all scientific organizations, and the Cooper Ornithological Club has set its mark at 200 members for the beginning of 1902. This movement will require energetic work upon the part of each member, but few doubt that it will be brought about. It is expected that with such an increased membership more may be accomplished in the publishing line, and that THE CONDOR may be materially enlarged with the beginning of its fourth volume.

With the coming June the club records the eighth year of its existence and we believe that the results form food for careful thought upon the part of those who are interested in such movements. An indomitable spirit has inspired the members of the club to earnest work, and there can be no doubt that the numerous projects which the Club has in view will be successfully carried to completion. We feel that a better example of "club spirit" could not be shown than is embraced in the make-up of the present issue of THE CONDOR. Only those familiar with magazine work will fully appreciate the many details which have been contributed by numerous members to round out the magazine as a whole. We point to Vol. III, No. 2 of THE CONDOR as the embodiment of what represents an intensely loyal club spirit.

**A Club Camp in the Sierras.** The editor recalls a suggestion offered by a member of the Club, Mr. Loren E. Taylor of El Dorado Co., Cal., that the Club or at least its Northern Division establish a summer camp at some desirable point in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, where as many of the Club members as possible might go for recreation and scientific work each summer. With the recurrence of spring the writer is impressed that the suggestion is at least worth consideration of those ornithologists who annually indulge in vacations afield.

At this writing (Feb. 1) the balm of spring is in the air, the house finch and other common songsters of the garden are bubbling over with their pre-nuptial songs, and bursting buds already announce the reign of spring. And little wonder it is that an indefinable enthusiasm seizes hold of one, and woodland memories fleet through the mind in panoramic train! What wonder that we yearn once more to enter the woodland where the realization of the vastness of our freedom swells the soul and brightens the eye!

Who has tasted the delicious, balmy air of the pinewoods in mid-summer who would not gladly duplicate his experiences and enjoy the recreation that indeed recreates? The Sierra Nevada Mountains of California possess a wonderfully interesting fauna, and the region itself is fascinating and restful to the person who has for a year been wrapped up in college or professional life. Here forests, mountain meadows, rushing streams and snowfields combine to form a vast and delightful study-ground for the ornithologist.

Mr. Taylor's suggestion is to the effect that a number of Club members might arrange their outings together, and by little effort build a substantial lodge in some suitable location, where it could be easily accessible for ornithol-

igists desiring to visit the region for a week or more. The Club could select its site from the thousands of square miles of forest land, at such altitude as would prove most interesting for scientific work. Here a substantial, permanent and entertaining camp could be established at small cost, and Club members and their friends when undecided as to their summer's outing, would probably find the camp tentanted by varying numbers of their co-workers.

The day when the ornithologist secludes himself is past. It is not presumptuous to say that the Cooper Ornithological Club has taught Californian workers the value of co-operation and fraternity. They appreciate now, more than ever before, the value of constantly and freely exchanging views with their co-workers, and it would seem that a summer camp would tend to still further foster this spirit. Let the matter be agitated and if the members of the Club believe that such an innovation would be beneficial as well as enjoyable, the coming summer is none too soon to see the suggestion in effect.

The attention of readers of THE CONDOR is called to the recent change in business management. At the annual meetings of both Divisions of the Club, the former offices of business manager were abolished and the offices consolidated with that of editor. The change was deemed expedient in view of the volume of business now being handled by the Club, the intention being to centralize the work. Under the new arrangement all dues, subscriptions and accounts are payable at the office of the editor.

We are pleased to print in another column a communication from Dr. Henry B. Ward of Lincoln, Nebr. on the subject of tapeworms in birds, especially since Dr. Ward is a recognized authority in this line. We learn that under his direction parasites have been found in over 100 varieties of birds.

The readers of THE CONDOR will be treated to a series of articles on Mexican birds during the present volume, the papers being from the pen of Mr. E. H. Skinner, whose two years residence in the state of Chiapas enabled him to gather much interesting data concerning native species. Mr. Skinner's contribution on the Giraud's Flycatcher in this issue opens the series, which promises to be of unusual interest.

Club members so situated as to be unable to attend the meetings of either Division of the Club are referred to the minutes of both Divisions as they appear in THE CONDOR from month to month. In this way they may keep informed of the work going on in the Club, which after all concerns the life and prosperity of the organization much more than the formal reading of papers at the meetings. The business sessions are the life of the Club; let the minutes of the meetings therefore be followed closely.

#### OBITUARY.

The following resolutions were passed by the Southern Division of the C. O. C. at its meeting held Jan. 26, 1901:

WHEREAS by the death of our esteemed fellow-member, A. L. Lapham, the Cooper Ornithological Club has lost an able and efficient member, and one of its devoted students of bird life, be it

RESOLVED by the Club assembled that we extend our heart-felt sympathy to the members by his bereaved family, and be it further

RESOLVED that a copy of these resolutions be enrolled in the minutes of this meeting, that a copy be sent to the family of the deceased and that the same be published in THE CONDOR.



#### A REQUEST FOR DISCARDED BIRDS' SKINS.

A number of the teachers of Oakland and Alameda have formed a class for ornithological study but are greatly lacking in material for their work. As all collectors have in hand discarded material, or that, which from one cause or another, is of small value to them, the favor is asked that they donate such material to help in the study before mentioned, as it will be of much value for that purpose.

These specimens will be used by the teachers not only for their own personal study, but in teaching the children in their classes in school. Of course I will gladly be responsible for all expense incurred in sending such material, and will promptly refund the same.

Please send to  
JOHN M. WILLARD,  
2221 Elm St.,  
Oakland Cal.



#### AMONG OUR EXCHANGES.

Reginald H. Howe Jr. and Glover M. Allen announce a work on "The Birds of Massachusetts" to appear during the autumn of 1901. It is promised that the list will be complete in every detail.

The *Ohio State University Naturalist* is the title of a publication issued by the Biological Club of the University, with John H. Schaffner editor-in-chief. The initial number bears the date of November, is well printed and contains sixteen pages of interesting material bearing on zoology, botany and ethnology. The journal announces itself as "devoted more especially to the natural history of Ohio." Subscription 50 cents per year.

*Nature Study* is the title of a bright and interesting 16-page monthly journal issued by the Manchester (N. H.) Institute of Arts and Sciences, with Edward J. Burnham as editor. With the February issue this journal completes its ninth number, and shows evidence of prosperity. The articles are both popular and technical, covering the various branches of natural science, several interesting ornithological contributions being noted in the list. 50 cents a year.