

THE CONDOR

An Illustrated Magazine of Western
Ornithology

Published Bi-monthly by the Cooper Ornithological Club of California

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NOTES AND NEWS

The editor regrets that he will be unable to continue longer in his present capacity. With the January issue Mr. Joseph Grinnell will preside in the editorial sanctum, and all manuscripts for publication, papers for review, and exchanges should be sent to him at Pasadena, California. Subscriptions, club dues, and advertisements should be addressed to H. T. CLIFTON, Box 404, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA.

Thus THE CONDOR will migrate southward, and in the Land of Sunshine we hope to see it wax greater as the club grows, and steadily enlarge its sphere of usefulness. We desire to take this opportunity to thank the many contributors who have cooperated in making the magazine what it has been during the past three years. We trust that in the future they will continue to respond to the importunities of the insatiable editor. Mr. Grinnell brings to his task both enthusiasm and equipment so that our readers may look to see further improvement in the magazine, provided they respond from the financial side—and respond promptly!

We are in receipt of the following communication:

To the Editor:

We are rightfully proud of the high place THE CONDOR occupies among the scientific bird magazines of the country and feel sincerely grateful to the men who by their untiring efforts have placed it where it is. Now I would ask if we are not strong enough as a Club to turn to a work that is sadly needed, the work of stimulating the proper interest in our native birds. There are thousands of young people wishing to know the birds they see about them, and who can help them as efficiently as such an organization as the Cooper Ornithological Club? This work is certainly not beneath our notice; in fact the people of our State have the right to ask this help from us as the only well organized Club of

the kind with a magazine of its own. Surely we as a Club can undertake no greater work than to bring the people of our State in closer touch with our own wild birds. May we not look to the Club to add a new department to THE CONDOR with the opening of the new year that shall be distinctly for the help of young naturalists? Our young people are subscribing for eastern bird papers that are of no practical value to them because we here in California are doing nothing for them. The call for such a department is strong and now that THE CONDOR has an established reputation as a scientific bird magazine are we not strong enough to increase its good work and answer this call of the many who would know the familiar birds of our forests and gardens?

BERTHA CHAPMAN,

Oakland, Cal. Director of Nature Study.

We heartily endorse Miss Chapman's plan for a new department which shall bring the young people of the State into closer touch with our native birds. Such a department could also be made of great use to the increasing number of teachers of nature study who now have practically nothing to fall back upon. As everyone knows the eastern magazines devoted to this purpose are almost useless, being particularly confusing to the beginner on account of the different avifaunas of the two sections of the country. We trust that the way may be clear to make this addition to THE CONDOR in the near future.

Mr. Richard C. McGregor, who has returned from the Philippines for a visit, has kindly relieved us of a disagreeable task by compiling the index which is printed with this issue. At the November meeting Mr. McGregor gave an interesting account of "The Distribution of Philippine Birds," illustrated by a number of specimens.

Messrs. Finley and Bohlman have promised to continue during 1906 their articles and pictures on western bird life. These have been a most attractive and valuable feature of THE CONDOR during the past two years, and the articles for the coming year promise to surpass even the best of their previous efforts. Mr. Finley now devotes most of his time to this work, and we feel singularly fortunate in being able to publish such able articles and illustrations fresh from the field. It is a rare opportunity.

It is only fair to state that the unusually large number of illustrations in this issue is made possible by the financial cooperation of several members of the Northern Division. With our present income we cannot regularly afford so many in each issue.

The annual dinner will probably be held at Tait's Cafe, Powell and Market streets, San Francisco, January 13 at 8 P. M. A short business meeting for election of officers will be held at 7:30 sharp, in the Council Room of the California Academy of Sciences.

In the Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington xviii, 225, Oct. 17, Mr. J. H. Riley notes that *Picus torquatus* Wilson, 1811,

is preoccupied by *Picus torquatus* Boddart, 1783, a South American form known as *Cerchneipicus torquatus*. As none of the other names given to the Lewis woodpecker prove available it is named *Asyndesmus lewisi* Riley.

Dr. C. Hart Merriam presented a paper entitled: "Work of the Biological Survey in California, with special reference to Birds," at a meeting of the Section of Ornithology, of the California Academy of Sciences, October 3.

The Twenty-third Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union convened in New York City November 14.

The Southern Division held their annual October Outing Meeting at Newhall on October 28 and 29.

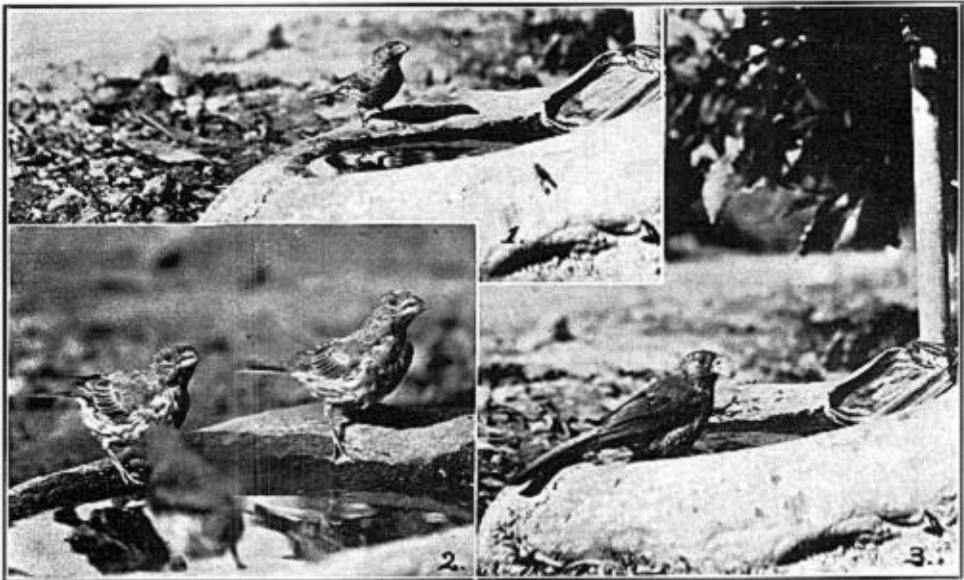
We again desire to thank The Pacific Monthly of Portland, Oregon, for the use of three plates for Mr. Finley's article.

space it has been necessary to defer four important articles. At the last moment we have been obliged to omit four portraits of European Ornithologists which were intended for this issue, and some club minutes already set up. These will appear in January.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

(Continued from page 177)

collector, and while the eggs were saved the nest fell to pieces. The stump was situated in a small ravine, with only two or three tall trees near. The set was taken on June 15, and the eggs were fresh. The nesting site was discovered by watching the birds circling in rapid flight. They would circle nearer and nearer, and when directly over the stub would be seen to dart straight down into it. The nest



1 AND 2. HOUSE FINCHES; 3. ANTHONY TOWHEE

Photographed by Joseph Mailliard

In view of the publication of the recently adopted International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (Entwurf von Regeln der Zoologischen Nomenclatur. Als Grundlage fuer einer Neubearbeitung der internationalen Regeln der internationalen Nomenclatur-Commission vorgeschlagen von F. C. v. Maehrenthal in Berlin <Zoologische Annalen, I, 1904, 89-138. Also Bull. 24 of the hygienic laboratory of the Public Health and Marine Service of the U. S.; reprint of English text by C. W. Stiles) Dr. David Starr Jordan will not publish his new code of nomenclature, extracts from which were given in this journal January last, pp. 28-30. Dr. Jordan has reviewed the English text of the 'International Code' in *Science* of Oct. 20.

Owing to unusual demands on available

was built of pine needles, glued together with birds' saliva, and fastened to the walls of the stub, which were very smooth. It was a narrow affair, and the six eggs lay side by side. The nest was only about two feet from the ground, so that the climber was obliged to descend almost the entire distance inside the nesting stub. This set of eggs is now in the fine oological collection of Colonel John E. Thayer. The eggs, as Major Bendire stated, are markedly smaller than those of the chimney swift, and are noticeably conical. They correspond exactly, in size, with the specimen figured in "Life Histories."—H. R. TAYLOR, *Alameda, Calif.*

Birds Drinking.—While in Santa Barbara this past summer my attention was attracted to the comparatively fearless way in which the