

breeding on the Farallone Islands by Mr. Loomis, July 7, 1896, tho I did not happen to find it there on my visits in 1885-87. The above two specimens measure respectively: ♂, wing 6.00, tail 3.25, forking of tail, 0.55, tarsus 0.95; ♀, wing 6.10, tail 3.25, forking of tail 0.58, tarsus 0.90. Not having access to any other material from California, I cannot at present say anything in regard to the relation of the Farallone birds to either *kaedingi* or *beldingi*.

I wish to thank Mr. Robert Ridgway for the opportunity of examining the fine series of Atlantic Coast *leucorhoa* in the U. S. National Museum. I am also indebted to the Carnegie Museum for the loan of the series of *kaedingi* from the Anthony collection. To Messrs. Grinnell, Mailliard and Bohlman, I am under obligation for similar kindnesses rendered.

*Haywards, Cal.*

### Methods of Filing Reprints

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SOONER or later in the development of a private scientific library, reprints become so numerous that much time is expended in looking for particular papers unless some simple system is employed in filing them. I propose to describe one or two methods of filing such papers in the hope that others will give us some ideas on the subject. The essential conditions to be fulfilled are that any given title shall be readily accessible and that the papers shall be preserved from injury.

In the early stages of a library's growth papers may be classed by authors or by regions and each set kept in a heavy Manila paper envelope. Author's name and list of contained titles should be written on one corner of the envelope. This is practically the same system as that fostered by literary supply companies who manufacture light wooden boxes, size of a book, open on one side, in which pamphlets are kept. The boxes stand on one end like so many books; titles of the contained papers are written on the back.

Neither of the above systems are satisfactory. The papers are subject to misplacement and may even be lost, and they become worn and soiled in handling.

There remain, however, two methods, both of which have been found excellent and each has its followers. I will describe each of these briefly.

First: Cut heavy Manila paper in two or three sizes to fit folio, octavo, etc., when folded once. Now furnish each pamphlet with one of these covers and give it a number in the corner. The title and author may also be written on the cover. The covered pamphlets are now to be set on end in deep drawers or in boxes of suitable sizes. With a card index of authors, any paper desired may be easily found. Papers kept in this way might be arranged alphabetically by authors and the card index done away with. This method is a very good one and commends itself on account of its cheapness and the fact that papers may be added one or many at a time.

Second: Have papers of a similar size bound together in book form whenever enough accumulate to make a conveniently sized volume. Papers may be

sorted somewhat as to subjects and authors. The volumes are numbered consecutively and the papers of each volume are numbered. Any paper is found by means of a card index giving number of volume and number of paper. If a volume contains papers by one or a few authors their names may be printed on the back, as well as the general subject treated in the volume, and at the bottom the name of owner. The first three volumes of such a series might have backs marked as follows:

| MEXICAN<br>BIRDS | EVOLUTION     | FISHES         |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| I                | 2             | 3              |
| <i>Brewster</i>  | <i>Cope</i>   | <i>Everman</i> |
| <i>Nelson</i>    | <i>Jordan</i> | <i>Garman</i>  |
| <i>Ridgway</i>   |               | <i>Gill</i>    |
| SMITH            | SMITH         | SMITH          |

This method commends itself by reason of the facts, that the papers are well protected, a volume is not so easily mislaid as a small pamphlet, and the pages having been cut in binding, are more easily run thru in order to locate a given paragraph. This method is more expensive than the first, but the greater convenience is well worth the additional cost.

I have given the two systems a pretty thoro test side by side, working with one set of papers bound and another equal number of papers unbound, and for convenience the bound volume is away ahead of the bunch of loose papers.

I hope the above notes will call forth additional remarks on the subject.

*Manila, P. I.*

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Birds Whose Notes Are Imitated by the Western Mockingbird.**—For the past three years I have made observations on the song of the western mockingbird in the vicinity of Pasadena and find in every instance that they imitate the commonest and most noisy birds of the locality. A striking proof of this was noted on Santa Catalina Island in the early part of last April. The western flycatcher was very numerous and in full song and as a result the mockingbirds of the Island were imitating it freely, something I have never known a mainland mockingbird to do.

In addition to the notes of other birds, the mockingbird utters several scolding notes which are strictly its own, but these are seldom heard in the regular song. There are quite a number of notes which I have been unable to place as yet. However, I think the following list will convey an approximate idea of the birds mimicked by *Mimus polyglottos leucopterus* in this region.

Western gull (Santa Catalina Island), killdeer, valley partridge, sparrow hawk, California woodpecker, red-shafted flicker, ash-throated flycatcher, Say phoebe, black phoebe, western wood pewee, western flycatcher (Santa Catalina Island), California jay, western meadowlark, Arizona hooded oriole, Bullock oriole, Brewer blackbird, San Diego song sparrow, black-headed grosbeak, western tanager, western martin, cliff swallow, phainopepla, California shrike, western gnatcatcher, dwarf hermit thrush, western robin.—C. H. RICHARDSON, Jr., Pasadena, Cal.