

THE CONDOR

An Illustrated Magazine of Western
 Ornithology

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NOTES AND NEWS

For the present all communications intended for the Northern Division, C. O. C., or for the Club-at-Large, should be addressed to the care of Mr. Joseph Mailliard, 1815 Vallejo St., San Francisco, and *not* to C. S. Thompson.

Messrs. Finley and Bohlman are in southern California for the spring months to continue their work in bird photography. They are bending their energies to secure a life-series of the osprey, bald eagle and condor. A pair of condors is being watched in the locality where a young one was successfully raised last season. Several Cooper Club members are jealously guarding the secret, and woe betide the person who tries to "collect" either the egg or the birds!

Mr. Harry Lelande spent a week in early February at Calexico, in the Imperial Valley below Salton. He reports the region to be swarming with water birds, due to the overflow from the Colorado.

Mr. Harold Gay spent the past summer and fall in Lower California looking after mining interests. While there he obtained the eggs of a number of rare birds, upon which he has promised to base an article or two for THE CONDOR. Mr. Gay met with Nelson and Goldman in the San Pedro Martir region, and reports them to be having their usual success in securing valuable mammals, birds, reptiles, etc., for the Biological Survey.

It is with pleasure that we are privileged to announce the prospective return to California of Mr. Bradshaw H. Swales, lately of Detroit, but for several years in the 90's one of our Southern Division, C. O. C., members. Mr. Swales has been doing much sound work with the birds of Michigan, and we are sorry that the Michigan Ornithological Club will lose so energetic a worker; but what is their loss, will be most emphatically our gain!

Mr. Bradford Torrey of Wellesley Hills, Mass., is spending the winter in southern California, having undertaken the journey for the sole purpose of extending his acquaintance among the birds. Thru the use of the field glass alone he is having remarkable success. By patient and persistent search he has located and studied such an elusive bird as the rufous-crowned sparrow, which but few of even our resident bird students have succeeded in detecting. Mr. Torrey is an accurate observer, and an entertaining writer as well, a combination which is altogether rare. He is the author of several popular books on eastern birds. We have asked that he write up some of his impressions of western bird-life for a future issue of THE CONDOR.



The above is from a photograph of the silver loving cup presented by the Club to Walter K. Fisher as a token of appreciation for his services as editor of THE CONDOR. The cup was designed by W. Otto Emerson and executed by Shreve & Co., San Francisco, and represents a condor's egg-shell supported between two condors. The latter stand 6½ inches high upon a silver base. The inscription reads:

*Walter K. Fisher
 In Remembrance
 from the
 Cooper Ornithological Club
 1903-1905*

At the Annual Dinner of the Northern Division, January 13, 1906, Mr. Emerson made an appropriate presentation speech, which was responded to feelingly by Mr. Fisher. The entire incident was one to be long remembered with pleasure by all present.

Mr. W. B. Judson reports finding a western

meadowlark's nest with full complement of eggs, near Los Angeles, on February 7, this being by nearly a month the earliest nesting date of the species for this locality.

Doubleday, Page & Company, of New York, will shortly issue an illustrated book on western bird-life from the pen and camera of Mr. Wm. L. Finley. The book will be written in a popular vein, and will consist of intimate camera and note-book studies of certain common birds that the everyday observer is liable to meet with. Mr. Finley has met with decided success in his lecture and magazine work, and we are confident that his book will be received as enthusiastically. We understand, moreover, that there will follow in course of a year or so a much more pretentious volume dealing in a scientific way with the life-histories of the rarer birds of the Pacific Coast. This will occupy a place in our ornithological literature as yet wholly vacant, and all Cooper Club members should lend every aid in their power to Messrs. Finley and Bohlman in their field-work with the camera.

Mr. H. R. Taylor has recently secured by purchase the entire oological collection of Rev. J. M. Carroll of Waco, Texas, together with cabinets, trays and "good will." The latter gentleman finds it necessary to devote his time to a field of activity which will probably cause his removal from Waco. The collection is an exceptionally fine one, well prepared, and with some "great" variations in the series. Mr. Taylor now owns probably the most extensive oological collection on the coast.

Mr. Wilmot W. Brown, Jr., of Cambridge, Mass., is in southern California for a few month's collecting, having just returned from a successful trip into the Yaqui country of Sonora. He intends to visit some of the Santa Barbara Islands, and if a suitable vessel can be chartered, Guadalupe Island off the Lower California coast. Mr. Brown is famous for his many years of field work in South America, where he has discovered over 100 species of birds, and a great many new mammals. By dint of extreme courage and energy he has penetrated into the most remote districts, discovering such remarkable novelties as the white-tailed hummingbird, from the Santa Marta region, figured in a colored plate in the April, 1899, *Auk*. Mr. Brown's work is pursued wholly thru his love of collecting, tho he works partly in the interests of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, and of Mr. Outram Bangs, the latter gentleman publishing most of the results.

A party of students from the biological department of Throop Institute, Pasadena, will spend the spring vacation in the San Gabriel Canyon near Azusa. A base camp will be established, and a region of known area within a short radius will be as thoroly and repeatedly canvassed as time permits, so as to obtain a census of the bird population. From this it is hoped to get an approximate esti-

mate of the numbers of individuals of each characteristic species in the foot-hill district of Los Angeles County.

We have heard again from Malcolm P. Anderson who is in Asia collecting natural history material for the British Museum. He has just finished a trip thru Korea where much of interest in the line of mammals was obtained. A paper is about to appear in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London, dealing with Mr. Anderson's two years' work in Japan. Altho longing to return to the United States, Mr. Anderson says he expects to remain abroad a year or two longer.

Mr. Carroll Scott of the Southern Division, C. O. C., has located for the year at a Nevada mining camp 16 miles southeast of Searchlight. In spite of its being an extremely desert region, Mr. Scott has found much of interest in his surroundings, including 33 species of birds. Several of the latter are of peculiar interest, such as the Leconte thrasher and Scott oriole. The Club will expect a full report upon this remote region as soon after Mr. Scott's return as he has time to work up his notes and material.

George F. Breninger, widely known as a collector and taxidermist, died Dec. 3, 1905, at Phoenix, Arizona. The cause of his death was paralysis which resulted directly from arsenic poisoning incurred while preparing specimens. We have been informed by Mrs. Breninger that his library and collections are for sale.

Minutes of Club Meetings

SOUTHERN DIVISION

JANUARY.—The annual meeting of the Southern Division was held January 25, 1906, at the home of Mr. H. J. Lelande, in Los Angeles, with eighteen members present.

Applications for membership from Bradshaw H. Swales, of Detroit, Mich., and Olga S. Tarbell, of Pasadena, Cal., were presented, and the resignation of Edmund M. Hayden was accepted.

The election of officers for 1906, resulted in the election of: O. W. Howard, President; W. B. Judson, Vice-President; J. Eugene Law, Secretary; W. Lee Chambers, Treasurer.

A motion thanking Mr. Clifton, the retiring Secretary, for his untiring efforts in the interests of the Club was enthusiastically carried, and Mr. Clifton thanked the Club for its assistance in responding with papers and places for meetings.

Mr. Lelande gave a short resume of the observations at the October Outing meeting, and named 47 varieties of birds observed in the vicinity of Newhall in the two days outing.

After this, the Club adjourned to the dining room to a very sumptuous spread, which met with universal approval and a hearty vote of thanks from all present.

J. EUGENE LAW, Secretary.