

THE CONDOR

An Illustrated Magazine
of Western Ornithology

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JOSEPH GRINNELL, Editor, Pasadena.
J. EUGENE LAW, Business Manager, Hollywood, Cal.
WILLIAM L. FINLEY } Associate Editors
ROBERT B. ROCKWELL }

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EDITORIAL NOTES

The present issue of THE CONDOR contains but one illustration. This will please certain of our constituents who deplore the expenditure of our resources in cuts! But perhaps others of our readers will not be so well pleased. Provided our contributors supply us with good illustrations we propose to continue them as a feature of our magazine. The matter, therefore, rests with those who are in a position to supply the pictures.

Wanted—someone to compile the 10-year Index for THE CONDOR. Remuneration, all the honor and satisfaction attendant upon the completion of the undertaking. Anyone feeling equal to the task, by reason of available time and inclination, correspond with the Editor.

The leading article in *Cassinia* for 1907 is by Witmer Stone and narrates what has been learned in regard to the life and accomplishments of Adolphus L. Heermann, M. D. No one of the early field naturalists of California did more lasting work in ornithology than Heermann. His papers, appearing in the Journal of the Philadelphia Academy, and in Volume X of the Pacific Railroad Surveys, form our most reliable record of the ornithology of the State at the period of his explorations, 1849 to 1854. It will pay every student of western birds to read Mr. Stone's biography of Heermann.

A new edition of Mrs. Bailey's Handbook of Birds of the Western United States is announced to appear early in the fall.

Messrs. Finley and Bohlman left Portland May 1 to make an ornithological tour of Eastern Oregon. They go by auto, having adapted a machine to the carrying of a campoutfit. Their object is, of course, primarily bird photography. CONDOR readers may look forward to seeing some of the results in future issues of our magazine.

The Birds of Washington, announced two years ago as having been undertaken by William Leon Dawson and J. H. Bowles, is reported to be well along towards completion. A lately incorporated feature, to be added to an "Imperial Edition, de grand Luxe", of the proposed work, will be 16 original water color paintings of Washington birds by Allan Brooks. The cost of this edition will be \$350.00 per copy. The work of Allan Brooks is said by those competent to judge to be unexcelled by that of any other bird artist in the world.

We have just received a letter from Mr. Robert Ridgway, dated "San Jose, Costa Rica, April 25, 1908." The following excerpts are of general interest: "The projected trip to the Cerro Turubales was abandoned, and we went instead to Guayabo, at the eastern base of the Volcan Turrialba, and thence to the lecheria at the foot of the cinder zone. Here we spent three miserable days on account of the cold and constant rain. From the lecheria we ascended to the crater, the climb requiring 3 hours and 10 minutes of very hard work; the descent was made in 2 hours. On the summit I found only one bird, *Junco vulcani*; but a little further down, in the chaparral, *Selasphorus flammula* and a *Thryorchilus* were noted. In holes of one of the cliffs of the crater a colony of *Hemiprocne zonaris* were nesting, but how they managed to stand the sulphur fumes I cannot understand. We got no specimens of this bird because, in the first place, the cliff was on the opposite and inaccessible side of the pit, a quarter to half a mile distant; and in the second place, any specimens shot (if that had been possible) would have dropped at least 1000 feet into the abyss where, of course, it would have been the sheerest folly to attempt to go.

"We did fairly well at Guayabo, adding at least two species (and genera) to the Costa Rican list." Mr. Ridgway will shortly return to Washington where he will resume work on the *Birds of North and Middle America*.

The 1908 Alexander Expedition to southeastern Alaska left San Francisco May 18 to be gone until October. The collectors in the party are Miss Alexander, Mr. Joseph Dixon and Mr. Edmund Heller. As in 1907 the object of the explorations will be the collection of mammals and birds, and information concerning their habits and distribution. The material obtained will be deposited in the new museum at Berkeley.

The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at the University of California was formally established March 23, 1907. As announced in the March issue of this magazine, this new institution has been founded thru the generosity of

Miss Annie M. Alexander, a friend of the University as well as of natural science. The purpose of the Museum is to carry on field and research work pertaining to the vertebrate fauna of the West Coast of North America. Several collectors are already in the field in the interests of the Museum. Besides the Alaskan party referred to above, Mr. Frank Stephens is at work in Eastern San Diego County; Messrs. Walter Taylor and Charles Richardson are collecting in the vicinity of San Geronio Pass; and Messrs. Harry Swarth and J. Grinnell are carrying on field work near Hemet, Riverside County.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

MARCH.—The March meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held in the Oakland Chamber of Commerce, March 7, at 8 P. M., President D'Evelyn in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The names of J. M. Davis, Alfred Brazier Howell, and W. M. Peterson were read, and their election to membership in the club by the Southern Division was approved. The secretary was instructed to learn from the Southern Division as to whether Mr. Davis is a member of the Northern or Southern Division; his address being Eureka, California.

Mr. Emerson, as chairman of the committee on the Clifton resolution, reported that the committee had carried out the instructions of the chair and copies of the resolutions had been forwarded to the Southern Division and to Mr. Clifton.

Mr. Emerson reported that arrangements had been made with Mr. Stearns of the Oakland Chamber of Commerce whereby the Club could keep a register at the Chamber. Further arrangements will be made and reported at the next meeting.

Mr. Gifford proposed the name of J. G. Bliss, 3281 Briggs Avenue, Alameda, California, for membership. Mr. Emerson proposed the name of George J. Obermuller, Haywards, California. Subject to the final vote the names were held over until the next meeting.

Dr. D'Evelyn reported that it had reached his ears that members of the Cooper Club had been prosecuted for dealing commercially in birds and eggs and spoke condemning such acts on the part of any members of the Club. Mr. Emerson then introduced a copy of the accompanying resolutions which after discussion was passed by the Club.

Whereas, It has become known to the Club-at-Large that certain members have been carrying on a commercial trade in birds and eggs in violation to the state protection laws;

Resolved, That the object of this Club was and is for the study and advancement of ornithology only, and the sentiment of this organization does not sanction its members, dealing commercially in birds and eggs.

Resolved, That we the members here present do all that is within our means to uphold the bird-protection laws of California, in conjunction with the State Fish and Game Commissioners.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the records of this organization and that a copy be sent to the Southern Division, the State Fish and Game Commissioners of California, and the Audubon Society of said State.

The business of the evening being concluded Dr. D'Evelyn read a paper entitled "Notes on the Waltzing Instinct in Ostriches." Dr. D'Evelyn's personal knowledge of the habits of the ostrich in South Africa filled the paper with interest and it was very pleasing to members of the Club. A copy of the paper has been preserved in the records. Mr. Emerson then read a paper on "The Distribution of the Yellow Warbler." Mr. Emerson illustrated his talk with maps and the skins of warblers taken in various parts of its range. The remainder of the evening was taken up by general bird talk by the members present.

J. S. HUNTER, *Secretary*.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

MARCH.—The regular March meeting of the Southern Division convened at 8:30 P. M. on the 26th, in the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, Los Angeles. President Morcom occupied the chair, and J. Grinnell was elected Secretary *pro tem*. The following members were present: Judson, Miller, Jay brothers, Howard, Willett, Robertson, Linton, Chamberlin, Osborn, Lelande, Grinnell and Morcom.

The minutes of the February meeting were read and approved. The name of Arthur Wilcox was proposed for membership, his application being signed by W. L. Chambers. Certain correspondence anent the legality of exchanging and selling specimens of birds and eggs was read and discussed. Mr. Robertson made extended remarks finally suggesting that our Secretary write to the State Fish Commission and ask them to define exactly their attitude toward exchanging and selling. Professor Miller made the motion, seconded by Mr. Jay, that a committee be appointed by the Chair to draw up resolutions expressing the Club's attitude with regard to the State law and bird-collecting, the same to be presented at our next regular meeting. The motion was carried and the Chair appointed Messrs. Miller, Robertson and Grinnell as the committee in question.

A general discussion followed, dealing with a wide range of ornithological topics. Adjourned.

J. GRINNELL, *Secretary pro tem*.