

the report than to any other, the birds and many of the smaller mammals being listed in a somewhat perfunctory manner.

While the lists, both of birds and mammals, are long ones, a surprisingly large number of species are included which were not met with by the parties at all, but are put in apparently because they *ought* to occur in the region covered. The value of such "records" may be fairly questioned—such as this of *Sciuropterus yukonensis*: "This fine flying squirrel doubtless inhabits the region in which we work;" or this of *Mustela americana actuosa*: "Martens can scarcely be absent from the region, but no signs of them were observed by our party;" or this of *Buteo borealis calurus*: "Altho not positively identifiable at a distance, several of the hawks seen by us on the lower Pelly were apparently redtails"—to quote a few of the many. Surely it is not necessary to formally incorporate a species in a faunal list in order to say that it was not met with—that might fairly be taken for granted.

Under *Aquila chrysaetos*, as occurring in the Ogilvie Range, Yukon Territory, we find the statement that "young lambs of the mountain sheep were abundant and these birds doubtless secured one now and then;" which would appear to be a gratuitous slander, on these particular birds at any rate, for no evidence is produced to support the accusation. It is strange how the association of ideas always brings up the helpless lamb whenever the eagle is mentioned—both in poetry and prose he is supposed to be subsisting largely on such a diet, just as the "chicken hawk" of the populace is continually on the lookout for poultry. Possibly there is as much ground for the one supposition as the other.

Some of the bird notes are of great interest, such as those on the Western Solitary Sandpiper (page 35), on the Spotted Sandpiper and Northern Shrike (page 36), on the Wandering Tattler (page 86), and many others besides, the most of the species are dismissed with the bare mention of their occurrence. *Myadestes townsendi* and *Junco hyemalis montanus* were secured for the first time in Alaska, while adults and young of *Leucosticte tephrocotis* were secured in midsummer on Glacier Mountain, Alaska, adding another to the very few localities in which the species has been found breeding. In the treatment of the birds the rulings of the A. O. U. Committee have been strictly adhered to in every case.

On reading the paper thru it is evident that the author's greatest interest lay with the "big game" and the fur-bearing mammals; and while no one will feel inclined to quarrel with him on that account, for they are most ably and interestingly treated, it seems a pity that the smaller fry from such an interesting region

should be dismissed with such scant notice.—  
H. S. S.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Editor THE CONDOR:

Being under the impression that practically everyone interested in the subject knew that I have been engaged, "off and on," for about twenty years, in the preparation of a work to supercede my old "Nomenclature of Colors" (long out of print, and manifestly seriously defective in the inadequate number of colors represented, their unscientific arrangement, and the bad method of their reproduction), your note in the last number of THE CONDOR was somewhat of a surprise to me. It seems proper, therefore, that I should formally announce the final completion of the laborious task begun so long ago, that the work is now in the hands of the firm who is to reproduce the plates, and that the book will be published sometime before next spring.

The new work has been very carefully planned and executed, and I have every reason to believe will fully meet all the requirements of those who have use for it. There will be about 1350 colors (instead of the 186 of the old work), and these will be reproduced by a method which insures not only a correct copy of the originals but absolute uniformity thruout the entire edition. Altho it will manifestly be impossible to name all the colors, those which are not named, and *also the intermediates*, both as to hue and tone, may be easily designated by an exceedingly simple system of symbols, which is practically equivalent to the representation of more than 5300 colors sufficiently distinct from one another to be readily differentiated by the normal eye. The standards of the "Nomenclature of Colors" of 1886 are of course preserved. The book will be the same size as the old one except for thickness which will not be very much greater, since all the text and plates of the old work which do not pertain to color are eliminated and the text re-written. Notwithstanding the great expense of its preparation and publication and the fact that there are more than seven times as many colors represented, the price will be but little more.

Very truly yours,

ROBERT RIDGWAY

Washington, D. C.; September 6, 1909

Editor THE CONDOR:

I notice that I have been quoted as taking a stand against the recognition of minute differences in naming races (CONDOR XI, no. 2, pp. 66-67). My intention in said instance (CONDOR XI, no. 1, p. 32) was entirely the opposite. Mr. Linton seemed to be decrying the inability to distinguish minute racial characteristics and I endeavored to show that the adjective "microscopic" was perhaps applicable only to the

individual specimens he had in hand and in no sense to the types of the races. As a fact, I am, and always have been, in favor of recognizing subspecifically by name any race based upon a constant difference that is localized geographically, no matter how slight the difference may be. My reply, quoted by you, was, I think, entirely an abstract statement and certainly not to be taken as referring to the status of *Vireo huttoni oberholseri*, a race I am not familiar enough with to discuss.

Sincerely,

H. B. KAEDING

Los Angeles, Calif.; September 18, 1909

## MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

### NORTHERN DIVISION

JULY.—The July meeting of the Club was called to order at 9 P. M. in the lecture room of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, with vice-president E. W. Gifford in the chair. Minutes of the last meeting were read, and approved as read.

Applications were received from the following:

Winifred N. Wear, 2448 Monterey Street, Fresno, by Mr. Grinnell; Herbert Massey, Manchester, England, by W. Lee Chambers; W. E. Clyde Todd, Pittsburg, Penn., by W. Lee Chambers; Waldron DeWitt Miller, New York City, by W. Lee Chambers; John K. Strecker, Jr., Waco, Tex., by W. Lee Chambers; Oscar P. Spielman, Chicago, Ill., by W. Lee Chambers; P. A. Taverner, Highland Park, Mich., by W. Lee Chambers; Jos. E. Gould, Norfolk, Va., by W. Lee Chambers; Richard S. Follett, Boston, by W. Lee Chambers; R. J. Hazard, Peace Dale, Rhode Island, by W. Lee Chambers; Clarence Birdseye, New York City, by W. Lee Chambers; Henry W. Henshaw, Washington, D. C., by W. Lee Chambers.

On motion the applications were laid over for one month. Mr. L. J. Cole, thru Mr. Grinnell, presented the idea of tagging birds with the view of finding their winter range. The subject was discussed by those present and all agreed that the idea was good; and any member of the Club that is in a position to tag any birds should do so and keep a record of the same. Mr. R. H. Beck who has been collecting among the water and shore birds around Los Banos, California, gave an interesting talk about work that he had done the past year.

Nothing further offering, the meeting adjourned and the members proceeded to examine the birds sent in from the field workers in southeastern Alaska; and also the eggs in the Museum's collection. The Museum has adopted the method used by Herbert Massey (see CONDOR X, p. 223), and anyone desiring their

eggs to show to the best advantage would do well to look into this method.

H. W. CARRIGER, *Secretary*.

SEPTEMBER.—The September meeting of the Northern Division of the Club met in the lecture room of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in Berkeley on the evening of the 18th instant. Meeting was called to order at 8:30 P. M. with first vice-president W. P. Taylor in the chair.

Applications from the following were presented: H. D. Meister, Swanton, Ohio, proposed by Frank Stephens; Prof. C. A. Kofoid, University of California, by W. P. Taylor; Alfred Shelton, Stoney Point P. O., Calif., by H. F. Duprey.

Motion was made and carried that the Secretary cast the unanimous ballot of those present electing to active membership all those whose names were presented at the last meeting.

Mr. Otto Emerson, as chairman of committee having in charge the collecting of funds for the Ten-Year Index, submitted a report and on motion the same was laid over till the next meeting. Letters from Dr. D'Evelyn and Dr. Ella Cool Walker expressing their regrets at being unable to attend the meeting were read and placed on file. The advisability of sending out meeting notices to distant members was discussed by those present and all approved of notifying everyone, whether within reach or not.

Mr. Roswell Wheeler gave a very interesting talk about his trip abroad. Among other things he stated that the scarcity of birds in Italy was particularly noticeable. In making a journey of several hundred miles he at no time saw more than two birds at once. Mr. Wheeler was not favorably impressed by the arrangement or condition of the study collection of birds and eggs in the British Museum.

Mr. Wheeler was the guest of our fellow member, Mr. Herbert Massey, Didsbury, England, and speaks in the highest terms of the extensive collection which Mr. Massey possesses. Of the birds breeding in England Mr. Massey has eggs of practically all, and most of them in large series. Among the very interesting things mentioned by Mr. Wheeler were a series of pink eggs of the Herring Gull. It seems that a pair of Gulls on a certain part of the northern coast laid eggs with a decided pink color; and Mr. Massey was fortunate in securing the eggs from these birds for several seasons. Three eggs of the Great Auk are in Mr. Massey's collection.

Mr. O. Heinemann, who spent the past season with Mr. M. S. Ray in the high Sierras, exhibited a collection of attractive photos, and was complimented by those present on the excellent work shown in some enlargements. Adjourned.

H. W. CARRIGER, *Secretary*.