

THE CONDOR

An Illustrated Magazine
of Western Ornithology

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JOSEPH GRINNELL, Editor, Berkeley, Cal.
J. EUGENE LAW, Business Manager, Hollywood, Cal.
W. LEE CHAMBERS, Business Manager, Santa Monica, Cal.

HARRY S. SWARTH } Associate Editors
ROBERT B. ROCKWELL }

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EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

Don't neglect to vote on that simplified spelling proposition (see THE CONDOR, September, 1910, page 176.) The returns to date show very close results, so that a few more votes one way or the other will decide the matter. If you don't want to see simplified spelling in our magazine, say so. While the Editor himself, favors the use of it, he will not bear a personal grudge against anyone for differing from him. He fears that some are withholding an expression of opinion in the belief that the Editor will actively resent an adverse decision. He hopes that he deserves a higher rating than this. Remember that the vote must be concluded December 10; for the January issue has to be made up immediately following that date.

We urge the attention of CONDOR readers to the Business Manager's announcement on the inside back cover of this issue. Nothing is more certain than the absolute dependence of a successful enterprise like THE CONDOR upon the concentrated efforts of a very few persons in addition to the moral and practical support of a large number of others. Both are essential to the maintenance of our magazine on a high level of usefulness. Chambers and Law are men of affairs, with multitudinous private business interests; yet they are giving freely of the time necessary to secure the financial support of THE CONDOR. Let us all help them. Keep in mind the purposes of the Cooper Club:

For the observation and co-operative study of Birds, because of the resulting pleasure;
For the spread of interest in Bird Study, so that this pleasure may be shared by others;
For the publication of Ornithological Knowledge, as being a contribution to Science.

William Leon Dawson, author of *The Birds of Ohio* and (with Mr. Bowles) *The Birds of Washington*, and secretary of our sister organization, the Caurinus Club, is now in San Francisco. Mr. Dawson is planning to spend the next few weeks in this vicinity where he will be at home to all Cooper Club members at the Exeter Hotel, 154 Ellis Street. He will spend the holidays at Santa Barbara with his former associate, Mr. J. H. Bowles, and the remainder of the winter will be past in the neighborhood of Los Angeles.

Mr. W. W. Grant of New York City has devised a very convenient loose-leaf note-book for the use of beginning bird students. It is of pocket size and the leaves are of two sorts, ruled and headed with various captions. An outline drawing of a bird is shown, and a list of colors, numbered, is given, the intention being that the student can record in a few minutes the coloration of a bird by putting the color numbers on the drawing of the bird on his note page. Space is also indicated for various other features of the specimen observed, together with the conditions of observation.

The records obtained by this system require the least possible length of time in securing them, and at the same time secure the accuracy accompanying immediate inscription. Mr. Grant has arranged that the National Association of Audubon Societies will sell this book at cost, so that it will become available to amateur observers of birds everywhere. The idea is clearly of value and should result in much benefit to the cause.

Messrs. Witherby & Co., of London, announce an important work on Australian Birds which they are about to issue. A very large sum of money is being expended upon the preparation of this work, and every care is being exercised to produce results as perfect as possible in every direction and thoroly up to date.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

DISTRIBUTION AND MIGRATION OF NORTH AMERICAN SHOREBIRDS, by WELLS W. COOKE (=U. S. Dept. Agriculture, Biological Survey, Bulletin No. 35, pp. 1 to 100, 4 pls.; issued October 6, 1910).

Professor Cooke and his co-workers of the Biological Survey have here brought together practically all the main facts known in regard to the subject expressed in the title. The economic importance of a compendium of this kind becomes apparent when one takes into account that increasingly large numbers of these valuable game birds are being killed annually, that unless measures are taken to protect them, most of the larger species are likely to become extinct, and further that a knowledge of the summer and winter abodes of the several species and of the routes they take in migration is essential to effective legislation in their behalf.