

THE CONDOR

A Magazine of
Western Ornithology

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Cooper Ornithological Club

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EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The friends of Mr. Joseph Dixon are relieved to learn that he with his party is safely housed for the winter on the Arctic shore of Alaska, near Demarcation Point. Letters were brought overland by sledge to Circle City during October and November. The latest letter was dated October 16, and reports everyone well and steps already under way towards carrying on winter collecting.

Mr. P. B. Peabody, of Blue Rapids, Kansas, is putting the finishing touches on his bird-book entitled "Nesting Ways". There remain, however, several western birds concerning which additional facts are needed, to bring the accounts to a uniform and satisfactory state of completeness. The author will be grateful for facts relative to any of these: Black Swift, Peale Falcon, Nevada Cowbird, Suisun Song Sparrow, Gray Titmouse, California Sage Sparrow, Monterey Hermit Thrush, and Salt Marsh Yellowthroat.

Southeastern Alaska received an unusual amount of ornithological attention the past year. That most remote of the southeastern fringe of islands, Forrester Island, was studied for three months by Dr. Harold Heath, of Stanford University. While Mr. George Willett explored several of the islands in the vicinity of Sitka. Reports from each of these field-observers are promised for future publication in THE CONDOR.

On the afternoon of November 6, 1913, the Museum of History, Science, and Art, in Exposition Park, Los Angeles, was formally opened to the public, the culmination of a

series of events which have been followed with closest interest by the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club. This dedication formed part of a two days' general celebration by the city of Los Angeles, marking the completion of the Owens River aqueduct, the exercises of the second day centering at Exposition Park. The other structures in the park, the State Exposition Building and the Armory, were also dedicated during the afternoon, though their unfinished condition precludes their immediate use by the public; and the site of the great memorial fountain which it is proposed to erect, was the scene of additional exercises.

After the ceremonies the Museum was thrown open for two hours, during which time it was inspected by about 4500 visitors. A reception was held by the Board of Governors in the evening, attended by about a thousand invited guests.

Although this date marks the formal dedication of the institution, two of the three wings, dealing with the natural sciences and with history, respectively, had been informally receiving visitors for nine months previously. The steadily augmenting numbers of these visitors, ranging from 300 to 1000 on Sundays, with a sudden jump to nearly 7000 on the Fourth of July, is sufficient indication of the place the institution is occupying in the life of the city. The added attractions of the art gallery have produced a marked increase in the attendance since the opening; altogether the number of people visiting the building, despite its location so far from the center of town, is encouraging evidence of its appreciation by the general public.

The Southern Division has not been slow to avail itself of the advantages afforded by the Cooper Club's connection with the Museum. Most of the Division's meetings are held in the building, and several of the members have placed their collections here as an eminently secure place of deposit; on the other hand, a number of the exhibition cases have been filled with gifts received from various of our members.

The city of Los Angeles owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. W. M. Bowen, president of the Museum's board of governors, as it is largely to his untiring labors for some years past that not only the Museum, but the entire Exposition Park, with everything included therein, was preserved to the people. The Cooper Club is under no less a debt to Mr. Howard Robertson, our representative on the Museum's governing board, who ably seconded Mr. Bowen in his labors, and who clearly perceived the many ways in which the Museum and the Club could be mutually helpful and beneficial.—H. S. S.

COMMUNICATION

A COLLECTOR IN SOUTH AMERICA

EDITOR THE CONDOR:

I dropped you a line or two from Lake Junin, Peru, some few weeks since. Am now

busily waiting for a boat to sail for Juan Fernandez Island. The sailing was scheduled for a week ago, but schedules are often broken, one soon discovers here. We spent a month at Lake Titicaca in the Peruvian Andes, and noticed with interest the slower movement and long duration of the South American earthquake as compared with our California ones. We were sitting at the skinning table working on a bird skin, and discussed the quake during the movement as well as noting some movement in the stove pipe and trees near the window. The same "terremoto" shook things and towns much harder to the north and west of us.

Going out in the patio the first morning after our arrival I was greatly surprised to see a California Quail in a large cage with several other birds. A couple of Cinnamon Teal and three or four native teal were in another cage, while a mudhen and a couple of tinamous had the liberty of the yard, and had been kept there for over a year the owner said. It called up scenes in the Joaquin to see Cinnamon Teal sitting about among the reeds in the lake. The black-birds acted the same way as do the redwings, but their wings were yellow patched instead of red.

The flamingos still interest me with their adaptability. Skirting the shores of the lake the morning we left, ice was seen along the edge and at one place we flushed four flamingos as the train rounded a point. They had been getting a cold breakfast in the shallow water. In Pisco Bay, where sea-birds swarm, it enlightened me to see flamingos standing along the bay shore surrounded by pelicans, boobies and gulls, while cormorants fished close by them, and Surf-birds, with smaller shore-birds, ran about their legs.

Glancing out of the window here, I see the lookout barrel on the masthead of a whaler close by, in the bay, and I wonder that anyone could ever have discredited the belief in the efficacy of whaling stations as desirable collecting points for Tubinares.

Hiring a boat yesterday, I rowed out past steamers and warships into the open ocean. The last warship had been passed less than a mile when a bunch of a dozen albatrosses were approached, sitting on the water. Some I might have killed with the auxiliary barrel; others sat about and mingled with the Sooty Shearwaters in their endless southern flight. Giant Fulmars fought with each other and the gulls at the city dump but a few feet from shore; while the grayish Fulmars reminding one so much of the Pacific bird, acted as our northern ones do at Monterey.

I often think of the modest request for a series of Skuas after I'd turned in a couple

at Monterey. Here they fly about the harbors and sit on the water just to leeward, usually, of the gulls. One yesterday was picking himself on a low-lying buoy, while the gulls, closely resembling the Western, perched above on a barge.

Climbing up a canyon in the back part of town the other day to test some auxiliary shells, I heard the call of the California Quail in the brush. This canyon might have been matched in southern California with the surroundings, though most of the birds differed somewhat. Particularly, the only hummer seen was one of the giant fellows resembling a Swift in flight, and in its call reminding me instantly of the squeak of the rat I heard caught in a trap in the room overhead the night before! One sees many birds caged here, and some of them are nice singers. A couple of large, brightly marked plover running loose in a small garden we admired greatly. Sincerely,

R. H. BECK.

Valparaiso, Chile, November 9, 1913.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED.

THE OREGON SPORTSMAN. Published monthly under the direction of WILLIAM L. FINLEY, State Game Warden, 806-7-8 Yeon Building, Portland, Oregon. Price 5 cents a copy, 50 cents a year.

When we heard of a state game warden in Oregon who believed in education rather than police patrol as a means of enforcing game laws, we wondered what methods would be used. Up to the present time we have been made acquainted with two methods, both of which are timely and will without doubt meet with great success. The first is a series of lectures on game given throughout the state. The second is a new publication called "The Oregon Sportsman," which is now four months old, the first number having appeared in September, 1913.

The particularly noticeable characteristics of this new publication and which are bound to make it successful are, first, the attractive cover, usually a reproduction of a photograph of some game animal or bird in the wild; second, the catchy headings and "readability" of the text, and third, the small cost.

The contents of each number is distributed under three main headings—editorials, general notes, and notes from counties. An occasional short article is contributed, and the first number contained a report of the hunting and fishing licenses sold. An idea of the editorial column can be had from the following gleaned from the first number: "The State Board of Fish and Game Commissioners is striving to make fishing and hunt-