

THE CONDOR

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Western Ornithology

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EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The once widely-held notion that swallows and swifts hibernate in the mud like frogs was long ago shattered, as being contrary to both probability and ascertained fact. Mr. Hanna, in the opening article of this issue of *THE CONDOR*, raises the question whether White-throated Swifts may not at times in winter hide themselves away in the crevices of cliffs and pass through a period of dormancy. There appears to be some ground for reviving the idea of bird hibernation.

Financial matters have caused continual delay in the printing of *Avifauna* no. 12 (Howell's *Birds of the Southern California Coast Islands*). But now the C. O. C. Business Managers announce that the way is clear, and that we are to see the publication of this memoir just as soon as it can be put through Nace's print shop.

Neither *THE CONDOR*, the *Avifauna* series, nor the Zoological Publications of the University of California are copyrighted. We can see no adequate reason for in any way hampering the free and unlimited distribu-

tion of knowledge. The specialists' discovery of today should become the common knowledge of everyone tomorrow. At the same time, common courtesy demands that where important facts or passages are taken from original sources and incorporated into a new article, or book, proper credit be indicated. There is often a need for ensuring authoritative statement, to be met in this way also.

Mr. Austin Paul Smith is now doing field work in western Texas, with headquarters at Fort Davis. He reports finding among other birds of interest, the Lloyd Bush-tit in goodly numbers. *CONDOR* readers will doubtless soon hear in detail of Mr. Smith's observations in that interesting section of the country.

Owing to ill health, Mr. H. W. Henshaw has resigned his position as Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, Department of Agriculture, dating from December 1. Mr. Henshaw has been connected with the Department of Agriculture since 1905, serving as Assistant Chief of the Bureau until 1910, and from then on, as Chief. During this period the Survey has grown rapidly. In order that the Bureau may continue to have the benefit of Mr. Henshaw's knowledge and experience he will retain official connection with it as Consulting Biologist. Mr. E. W. Nelson, who has been on the scientific staff of the Bureau since 1890, and Assistant Chief since 1914, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Henshaw as Chief of the Bureau.

Mr. Frank Stephens has been made Superintendent of the newly established Zoological Garden in San Diego.

Of all the direct agencies of destruction brought to bear on our native bird-life as a result of human settlement of the country, that satellite of man, the domestic cat, is undoubtedly the worst. The whole question of cat perfidy and cat suppression is ably discussed by Mr. E. H. Forbush in a bulletin (number 2 of the *Economic Biology* series) lately issued by the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture. No one interested in bird protection (and who is not?) should fail to read this admirable presentation of the subject.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The regular meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on the evening of September 21, 1916, at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley. The following members were present when the meeting was called to order by President Storer: Messrs. Bryant, Camp, Carriger, Davis, Dawson, Grinnell, Hansen, Storer; Miss Crane; Mrs. Grinnell and Mrs. Schlisinger.