

THE CONDOR

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EDITORIAL NOTES

Messrs. Chambers and Law have filed with the two Divisions of the Cooper Club their report of the organization's finances for the year 1916. This report shows a remarkably healthy state of affairs when one considers the rather perplexing conditions under which publishers have had to labor the past year or so. To our Business Managers is due the Club's heartiest thanks for the intelligent attention they have devoted to its affairs. The following are some of the outstanding features of the report. The total receipts for the year amounted to \$2143.39, derived as follows: Dues, \$1281.35; subscriptions to Condor, \$223.45; advertising, \$4.00; sale of back Condors, \$71.59; sale of Avifaunas, \$338.00; life memberships, \$225.00. Expenditures involved \$1991.61, covering the following items: Printing Condor, \$1167.56; half-tone cuts and other illustrations, \$124.65; separates, \$8.21; Editorial expense, \$22.94; Managerial expense, \$149.05; Division expenses, \$59.20; balance on Avifauna xi, \$460.00. In bank on January 1, 1916, \$88.08; on January 1, 1917,

\$239.86. Against this latter fund, however, should be debited advance dues and subscriptions received on 1917 account; indeed, an actual deficit is figured for 1916, of \$142.25. Nevertheless the outlook for 1917 is not discouraging, in spite of the world events which are bound to have a depressing effect on every enterprise for the production of other than the basic necessities of life and war. It is quite likely that a reduction in the size of THE CONDOR for 1918 will be necessary. It is planned to establish a reserve this year to cover possible decrease in income in 1918. Ornithological periodicals the world over have already shown more or less reduction in size; some of them have suspended altogether. We have been until now the most fortunate, and prospects with us are still far from serious.

The Cooper Club suffered the loss of a useful and widely known member in the death of Norman DeWitt Betts who, on May 21, 1917, was instantly killed by lightning at his cattle ranch in northeastern Utah. Graduated from Cornell University as a mechanical engineer, and employed for several years in the United States Forest Service, Betts's work had taken him into the field in several states of the middle west. At the time of his death he was thirty-seven years of age and was therefore at a period which promised much for ornithology, for he had become practiced as a field observer and had begun to record notes of much general interest on the bird-life in the little known region of his new home. His first publications were in *The Auk* and *Bird-Lore* and were written from St. Louis in 1909 and 1910. Later, notes in the same magazines were contributed from Boulder and from Madison. In THE CONDOR of July, 1916, appeared an account written by Betts relative to the birds encountered during his trip to Montana in the summer of 1915. Of greatest interest, however, is his list of the birds of Boulder County, Colorado, a paper of fifty-five pages published by the University of Colorado as Number Four of Volume Ten of their "Studies".—O. WIDMANN.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH BIRDS | What to do to make one's home grounds attractive to | bird life. From nesting boxes to winter feeding | By NIEL MORROW LADD | President of the Greenwich Bird Protective Society. | Member of the Linnaean Society | [design] | More than 200 illustrations | Garden City New York | Doubleday, Page & Company | 1916. Pp. 8+228, illus., as above, some colored.

In an attractive little $3\frac{1}{2}$ by 6 inch booklet entitled "How to Make Friends With Birds" Mr. Ladd tells of the various methods which are in current use for attracting and helping to increase the number of birds about our homes. The principal field of application of the book is eastern North America, but persons living on the Pacific Coast will find much of use to them as well.

The author gives specific information for making many different styles of bird houses in sizes adapted to the needs of different species of birds, and also tells how and where they should be put up in order to get the best results. The use of tin cans, gourds, and nest shelves is discussed, and some pages are devoted to the matter of bird baths. Next, the problem of important bird enemies receives attention, and specific instructions are given for dealing with the domestic cat and English Sparrow, including plans for constructing cat and sparrow traps. Then comes the matter of food plants useful to attract birds and protect cultivated crops, and the kinds of "table" food to be offered different species during the winter months and the methods to be employed in placing it. Means of extending the protection afforded birds, a brief mention of the possibilities in artificial propagation, the relation of certain birds to important insect pests, and the methods to be used in organizing clubs for bird protection form the final chapters. A "brief bibliography" completes the book.

The book as a whole is cleverly conceived and executed; only the references at the end are a disappointment. The reader may search in vain to discover whether A. K. Fisher's "Hawks and Owls of the United States" is a government publication, and will have no clue to the fact that the work is an economic treatise.—TRACY I. STORER.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY EDWARD HOWE FORBUSH.—Three very interesting papers have come to us from the pen of Mr. Edward Howe Forbush, State Ornithologist of Massachusetts, during the year which has just passed. Two of these have a direct appeal to ornithologists, namely those on the cat and the natural enemies of birds, while the third shows something of the work and the possibilities in a public office devoted to the interests of birds.

"Bird Killer, Mouser and Destroyer of Wild Life" are the words which Mr. Forbush uses to characterize the domestic cat, and no one with an open mind who reads his pamphlet on the subject can fail to be

convinced of the truth of this description. After giving in some detail the history of the cat, the author dwells on the habits of the animal, and compares her with man's other household companion, the dog. Then he goes on to speak of the numbers of cats and of their food habits in considerable detail, of their destruction of various kinds of birds and mammals, both wild and domesticated, of the economic value of the animals killed by cats, and of the cat as a disseminator of disease. Finally he mentions the various means which have been tried for controlling cats, and of the success or failure of these methods. Altogether the pamphlet is an admirable summing up of the case of the cat, pro and con, and even the most ardent cat enthusiast cannot fail to be convinced of the evidence against the animal. A copy of the paper should be in the hands of every bird student.

In his paper on The Natural Enemies of Birds² Mr. Forbush begins by stating in a succinct manner the general relations which exist between birds and their natural enemies, particularly of the regulative function which the latter exercise. The elimination of the unfit and the control of total numbers are both useful works of these "enemies". Then he discusses the effect of man's "satellites", the introduced domestic animals, and following these the feral, wild, or natural, enemies. Finally he calls attention to some of the attempts which have been made to "control" these natural enemies, by bounties and other means, and in conclusion lays down certain general principles which need to be observed in dealing with the matter of control.

In Mr. Forbush's ninth annual report³ one gets a very good idea of the multifarious tasks and duties which a State Ornithologist is called upon to perform in the course of a single year. Preparation of five papers for publication, revision of his book on the game birds of the state, giving numerous lectures and attending to a considerable correspondence comprise the general activities of his

¹The Domestic Cat. By Edward Howe Forbush. Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, Economic Biology—Bulletin no. 2, 112 pp., frontispiece, 20 pls., many figs. in text. 1916.

²The Natural Enemies of Birds. By Edward Howe Forbush. Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, Economic Biology—Bulletin 3, 58 pp., 7 pls., 5 figs. in text. 1916.

³Ninth Annual Report of the State Ornithologist [of Massachusetts]. By Edward Howe Forbush. Boston, Mass. 26 pp., frontispiece, 6 pls. 1917.