

fins, two Horned Puffins, two California Murres and one Cormorant. These birds were scattered in the drift wood and had evidently been killed by oil. One Horned Puffin brought back is now skeleton no. 30714 in the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. On May 17, 1919, Mrs. Hocking obtained a Horned Puffin at Coast Ways, near Pescadero, which is now specimen no. 30713 in the Museum.—HAROLD C. BRYANT, *Berkeley, California, June 26, 1919.*

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

Criticism has come to the Editor of THE CONDOR either directly or, more often, through indirect channels relative to the kinds of articles being published. Such criticism is various, to the effect that our magazine should publish proportionately more local lists, or fewer local lists; more reviews or no reviews at all; more life history accounts; etc., etc. Here is one determining factor, taking into consideration the volume for 1919, which concludes with this issue: We have put out just as many pages (252) as the money available pays for, this being determined by very close calculation on the part of our Business Managers. Now, as furnishing data to govern the Editor in the future, he hereby requests such of our readers as are sincerely concerned for the welfare of THE CONDOR to look over volume XXI critically and to write to him frankly as follows: What class of articles appeared to you as most worth publishing? What class of contributions—reviews, minutes, communications, lists, autobiographies—might have been left out altogether, their place being taken by other, more worthy, matter? What were the best kinds of illustrations, and what others might well have been omitted? The status of the annual roster was settled by vote of the Club early in the present year—and favorably to the continuance of that feature. Now the Editor invites views in regard to the further policy of THE CONDOR as outlined above. We cannot publish any greater amount of material with the limited funds in hand; but we *can* change the *kind* of matter printed to some degree, although limited always by the kind and amount furnished by our contributors. *What are your ideas?*

As regards the splitting of genera, in other words, the determination of the limits of any genus, we would call the attention of our readers to the article in the October (1919) *Auk*, by Mr. Ned Hollister, entitled "The systematic position of the Ring-necked Duck". Mr. Hollister's conclusions in regard to the constitution of the Genus *Marila* are certainly based on a sound and clearly set forth line of reasoning. It will be remembered that it has been recently proposed to set off the Canvasback in one genus, the Redhead in another, and the Scaups in a third! Hollister's careful study of the facts, and of the other considerations involved,

shows that *Marila* as it now stands should be "left without any subdivision at all"—with which conclusion we heartily concur.

The current tendency in some quarters toward the suppression of the private collector seems to have gone to great lengths in Minnesota. In Dr. T. S. Roberts' useful and attractive handbook entitled "A review of the ornithology of Minnesota" (May, 1919) we find a statement in the "Addendum" to the effect that permits to collect birds, nests and eggs for scientific purposes are in that state to be issued *only* to public institutions that maintain zoological collections. Dr. Roberts points out that this attitude is directly opposite to that taken by the Federal government and that the effect will be directly toward discouraging interest in ornithology and will eventually lead to a dearth of trained ornithologists. We entirely agree with the stand which he takes.

Mr. George Willett has established himself and family for the winter at Craig, Prince of Wales Island, Alaska. He has arranged to devote practically his entire time to ornithology, and since he is, as far as we know, the first active bird student to winter in southeastern Alaska we may expect valuable results in the way of new facts concerning the seasonal behavior of the birds there. Practically nothing is now known, for instance, in regard to the route of migration of many of the birds which summer in western Alaska and which winter in California. Whether or not they follow the coast line closely, traversing the outer of the coastal islands, or whether they pursue an off-shore route more or less distant from the land, remains to be proved. Mr. Willett's findings will doubtless bear importantly upon this problem.

The Thirty-seventh Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union was held in New York City, November 11 to 14. Fellows elected were Alexander Wetmore and Joseph H. Riley; Henry W. Henshaw became a Retired Fellow. The only Western Fellow in attendance was Harry S. Swarth, representing the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

Four months of biological field work has been carried forward in the State of Wash-

ington during the season just passed under the auspices of the Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Cooperating with the Survey in the field work at different times were the following: Professor William T. Shaw, State College of Washington, Pullman; Professor H. S. Brode, Whitman College, Walla Walla; Professor J. W. Hungate, State Normal School, Cheney; Professor J. B. Flett, National Park Service, Longmire; Mr. William L. Finley and Mrs. Finley, Portland, Oregon; and Stanton Warburton, Jr., Tacoma. The Biological Survey was represented for a part of the time by Mr. Stanley G. Jewett, Predatory Animal Inspector, Pendleton, Oregon; and throughout the season by Mr. George G. Cantwell, Field Assistant, Puyallup, Washington, and Dr. Walter P. Taylor, Assistant Biologist, Washington, D. C., the latter in charge of the work. Investigations were made in the Blue Mountains area of extreme southeastern Washington, in which occurs an unusual mixture of Rocky Mountain and Cascade Mountain types; and in Mt. Rainier National Park, in connection with which the circuit of Mt. Rainier was made for the first time, so far as known, by any vertebrate zoological expedition. Mr. Cantwell is continuing the survey through the fall and winter, being engaged at present in working the bunchgrass and sage-brush country of eastern Washington.

Mr. Harry Harris, of Kansas City, Missouri, has recently brought to our attention the very interesting details of the trial of the case which tested the validity of the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act in the United States Court at that point. It will be remembered that Missouri has been the center of opposition to the provisions of this Act from the start, both on the part of one of the United States senators at the time the bill was before the Senate and subsequently when it came to enforcing the law. It is a satisfaction to all who have been concerned in securing this important achievement in conservation to know that even though the case above referred to was tried in the "enemy's country" the law was decided to be altogether constitutional, and was not "smashed", as many local sportsmen wished, so they could resume spring shooting of ducks.

A move is on foot, the success of which is already guaranteed, to found a memorial in honor of the late Frederick Du Cane Godman, known so favorably to American ornithologists for his work in collaboration with Osbert Salvin on neotropical birds. The memorial in view will take two forms, a bronze tablet, and a foundation to be known as "The Godman Exploration Fund", and it

will be administered in the interests of the British Natural History Museum, at South Kensington, England. This institution, through Mr. W. L. Sclater, Honorary Secretary of the Godman Memorial Committee (10, Sloane Court, London, S. W. 1), invites contributions of money for this purpose, and gifts from persons interested should be addressed as above. We heartily endorse the above undertaking, in that it will perpetuate the name of one who in his lifetime contributed, himself, generously toward the development of New World ornithology.

During the years 1914-16 extensive field work was carried on under the auspices of the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in a section across the Sierra Nevada from Snelling to Mono Lake, embracing the Yosemite Valley and adjacent scenic spots much frequented by summer visitors to the region. During this period specimens, photographs and notes were gathered with the purpose of drawing up a general report on the vertebrate animal life of the region. Preparation of this report was suspended during the war; but the work has now been resumed. A short supplementary field trip was made during the early summer of the present year by Joseph Grinnell and Tracy I. Storer, of the Museum staff. This trip had as its objective the gathering of additional information, especially on the nesting times and nesting habits of certain of the birds not previously studied to advantage. Camps were established near Snelling and Coulterville in the foothills, and in the Yosemite Valley, while shorter stops were made at three stations near the rim of the Valley. The results were quite satisfactory. All of the facts gathered on this and the earlier field trips are being incorporated into a hand manual which will serve as a guide to the identification of the mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians of the region, the places in which the species are to be found, their habits, times and places of breeding, their food, and their general relations in the scheme of nature as exhibited in the Yosemite region.

#### MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

JUNE.—A meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, in affiliation with the Western Society of Naturalists, was held at Pasadena on June 19 and 20, 1919, at the annual meeting of the Pacific Division, American Association for the Advancement of Science. Abstracts of papers presented are published in the Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America, July, 1919. Numerous members of both Divisions were in attendance. As this was in the nature of a special meeting, no