

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

We are struck with the cogency of the suggestion made by Mr. Leverett Mills Loomis in the January, 1920, *Auk* (p. 91); namely, that the projected "Systema Avium" might well serve as a new starting point for ornithological names. This could be done arbitrarily, just as with Linnaeus, 1758, by action of the International Zoological Congress. Majority vote of representatives of the ornithologists of the world would probably suffice to initiate such action. Surely everyone yearns for permanency of names!

The report of the Business Managers for 1919 was presented to both Divisions of the Cooper Ornithological Club at the February meetings and indicates a healthy condition of the Club's finances. The cost of producing *THE CONDOR* was the greatest in its history, and the receipts were greater than in any year except 1916. Avifauna number 13 was issued and has met with ready and extensive sale. Sales of back numbers and complete files were never so active as now, and applications for membership constantly exceed the lapses. A total of \$4167.50 has already been pledged for the Endowment Fund and \$1460.00 of this amount has been received. Contributions to this fund, more than almost anything else, spell encouragement to business managers and editors alike, since it denotes a substantial appreciation of past efforts in behalf of the Club and a desire to stabilize and perpetuate the foundation on which, in the last analysis, the productivity of the organization must stand, namely, money to print and distribute such contributions as from time to time become available.

We received a gratifying number of replies to our request for editorial "ideas" in the last November *CONDOR*, enough to show that a good many persons are decidedly alive to the interests of our magazine. To sum up, opinion seems pretty well agreed that the most interesting feature of *THE CONDOR* is the "Field and Study" department, in other words, that, upon receipt of an issue, the brief "Field and Study" items are read first. Second in point of interest are declared to be the personal biographies, and third, the accounts of life histories of particular birds. Last in general interest comes the "annotated list". Our policy in the future will be modified in a measure by the returns obtained. But we will continue to publish lists, when of decided merit, and other matter, such as descriptions, which are primarily of scientific importance. It is the function of *THE CONDOR* to serve as a medium for recording ornithology, as well as to furnish articles of a "readable" character. Then too, the Editor must be controlled largely in the kind of material he presents by the

kind and quantity offered. The ideal situation is where a large assortment is available, from which he can select the best.

A "Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Club" has been organized, with headquarters in Seattle. The objects of this club are "to promote social and fraternal relations among the working ornithologists and mammalogists of Washington, Oregon, British Columbia and Alaska", and "to promote interest in the scientific study of birds and mammals within the region named". There is certainly need for a club of just this sort, and there are already located in the Puget Sound district a considerable number of active naturalists to give the undertaking impetus. We predict a successful future for it. Persons desiring further information concerning this organization should apply to Mr. F. S. Hall, Director of the State Museum, University of Washington, Seattle.

Mr. Ernest P. Walker, until last fall stationed at Wrangell, Alaska, where he was Inspector under the United States Bureau of Fisheries, has now entered the service of the Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture. He is located at Phoenix, Arizona, and is serving as Warden under the Migratory-Bird Treaty and Lacey acts.

### PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

A REVISION OF THE SUBSPECIES OF *PASSERCULUS ROSTRATUS* (CASSIN). By Harry C. Oberholser. The Ohio Journal of Science, vol. xix, no. 6, April, 1919, pp. 344-354.

There are features quite apart from the systematic treatment of the species here considered that render this paper one of exceptional interest to Californian bird students. The abundance of the Large-billed Sparrow in its winter home in southern California has made still more tantalizing the mystery of its breeding range, for it seemed evident that the nesting grounds, though unknown, could not lie so very far from our doors. While, as regards the subspecies *Passerculus r. rostratus*, the author can contribute nothing to our knowledge of the nest or eggs, he maps the breeding range on the basis of specimens taken during what must be the nesting season.

Three subspecies of *Passerculus rostratus* are here recognized, *P. r. rostratus*, breeding at the head of the Gulf of California, in Lower California and Sonora; *P. r. guttatus*, breeding on the San Benito Islands, central western Lower California; and *P. r. halophilus*, breeding on the mainland of central