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CONDOR.

HOWARD ROBERTSON,

49 Courthouse, Los Angeles.

An Open Letter.

ALTONA FARM, LONGMONT, COLO.,
FEB'Y 10, 1903.

MY DEAR FISHER:

I am so enthused over the last issue of THE CONDOR that I must write you a few lines, to try and spread my enthusiasm. Barring the unfortunate necessity of the "Memoriam" to our dear friend Barlow, the issue was certainly a "cracker-jack"—in fact the culmination of many good numbers which came last year. The extra good paper you are using in the make-up may be a trifle expensive now, but will prove cheap in the long run. It will stand the test of time, binding and usage much better than some journals of reference now twenty years old which were not published with the same foresight.

Periodically someone gets off a howl about the "Good old days," and "the O. and O.," "What it used to be" and "Why cannot we have something as good now." But THE CONDOR of today is a much better paper than the "O. and O." ever was. We must not forget that we are twenty years older than we were in those "Good old days," and possibly with our advanced information we would not now enjoy the "O. and O." as we did then. It certainly was delightful and amusing reading for us: the narratives of those "big sycamore climbs" and "stick in the mud" collecting trips. But as a magazine for reference, what is its price now compared to back copies of "The Nidologist" and the "Bulletin of the Cooper Club?" The "O. and O." *did* hold the old crowd together. That was a good feature and that is what our Eastern friends realize is lacking in the journals now in their hands.

Lattin's little sheet is filling its place and so is the "Auk." "Bird-Lore" and the "Osprey" are trying to do justice to the medium, with the result that the collectors are divided between the two and are not in unison. Your country out on the coast, to-day, has the best collectors, the best union, and consequently the best journal.

Last fall I experienced delightful visits with many of the "Old Boys," Jackson, Parker, Norris, Crandall and several others; men whom you will remember assisted in the make-up of the "O. and O.," and I talked CONDOR to them pretty strong. They all have great admiration for the workers out on the coast, and for your publication. They regret by contrast, their own lack of union and the decrease of good field work in the East. Since you publish as "A Magazine of Western Ornithology" do you care

to open your columns to the *use* of Eastern subscribers?

Oology was *primary* with us in the "Old Days," now it is *secondary* (to Ornithology). That fact has worked the change in the character of our reading matter, and those old collectors, who have not put the scalpel in a more convenient place on their table than the drill and blow-pipe, are behind the times and thereby deplore the loss of the old "O. and O." At the same time I find they value a set of eggs coming from a man with a good "skin record" like Anthony, McGregor or Grinnell about six times as much as they do a set from some of "Lattin's boys." Fisher! you should have seen the look of satisfaction on Crandall's face as he pointed out to me certain sets of eggs, here and there, with the remark that "they were some of Chester Barlow's collecting."

Cordially yours,
FRED M. DILLE.

Mr. Dille's pertinent inquiry in his "open letter" as to whether THE CONDOR intends to adhere strictly to the policy enunciated in its title "A Magazine of Western Ornithology" may be answered in the affirmative. While we are always glad to publish notes and papers of a *general nature* from our eastern friends, those articles which are faunal or biographical must be distinctly western, or in other words must fall within our "geographical limits." When the present editor was associated with the late Chester Barlow, it was decided that these limits should arbitrarily extend from the west coast eastward to *include* Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas. Outside of the United States our scope is somewhat elastic, and comprises the Pacific Coast generally, and islands of the eastern Pacific.

The right sort of bird material is limited, and we do not care to encroach on the rightful territory of eastern ornithological journals. The Cooper Club, too, is a distinctly western organization, and it is believed that to be successful, the more western its magazine the better.

Obituary.

THOMAS E. SLEVIN.

Thomas E. Slevin died at his home in San Francisco, December 23, 1902. He was born January 20, 1871, in New York City, and came to the Pacific Coast in 1878. His love of natural history began when he was a mere boy and exhibited itself in a characteristic way. The first fruits of his ornithological endeavors are still preserved. From his father, the late T. E. Slevin, L. L. D., a founder of the Geographical Society of the Pacific Coast, he in-

herited his tastes for natural science, and his uncle was also much interested in birds.

Mr. Slevin spent much of his time in collecting faunal series, as his summers would permit, among the birds of the foothills of the Coast Ranges, and the Sierras. He was an expert workman, and a careful observer. His notebooks show much painstaking labor, in very full notes on the habits and nidification of many species. He spent the early part of 1902 in Arizona, in the hope of improving his lately declining health. On his return in May he began the recataloging of his large collection. In November he came to Haywards in hopes of some slight change, and during his short stay in the town, his love of the fields never lagged.

Mr. Slevin was unassuming and modest, and not given to publicity in his work. He became a member of the Cooper Club in January, 1899, and was also an associate member of the American Ornithologists' Union. - W. O. E.

GEORGE SHOENBERGER CHAMBLISS.

George Shoenberger Chambliss, a member of the Cooper Ornithological Club, died at his residence at Altadena, Los Angeles County, Cal., February 15, 1903.

Those of us who were intimately acquainted with him had learned to admire his sterling qualities and by them his loss will be keenly felt. He was not a collector of birds but a close student of their habits, and in many ways gave encouragement and substantial aid to those who were engaged in active work, especially during the past few years of his life when the inroads of disease prevented him from taking active part himself. It was during this period that he founded what is known as the Chambliss Ornithological Library, containing many rare and out of print works of the earlier ornithologists including Audubon's 1840-1844 Edition of American Ornithology. This library is in constant use by members of the club and others interested in ornithology and forms a nucleus which in time may become the leading ornithological library of the southwest. It is already a lasting monument to the part he took in gaining knowledge of our birds and to his generosity in placing it where it will do the most good. F. S. D.

THOMAS MCILWRAITH.

Thomas McIlwraith, one of the founders of the American Ornithologists' Union died at his home at Hamilton, Ontario, January 31, 1903. He was born at Newton, Ayr, Scotland on Christmas day, 1834. In 1853 he came to Canada to superintend the gas works at Hamilton. As early as July, 1860, and January, 1861, he published lists of the birds in the Canadian Journal, and in 1866 a more com-

plete paper in the Bulletin of the Essex Institute on the birds of Ontario. The two editions of the "Birds of Ontario" appeared in 1886 and 1894.—A. K. F.

Minutes of Club Meetings.

NORTHERN DIVISION.

JANUARY.—The annual meeting of the Northern Division was held at the residence of W. Otto Emerson near Haywards, January 10, President Grinnell presiding, eighteen active members and seven visitors present. The program for the evening was first presented as follows: In Memoriam: Chester Barlow, H. R. Taylor; Remarks on the Ornithological Writings of Chester Barlow, Joseph Grinnell; The Conditions of Bird Study in the Mississippi Valley, C. R. Keyes.

The following were elected to active membership in the Club: Henry W. Fowler, Palo Alto; John M. Miller, Stanford University; Agnes Frisius, Alameda. Four applications for active membership were received, from Theo C. Zschokke, Palo Alto; Lloyd Newland, Palo Alto; Herbert Brown, Yuma, Arizona; S. B. Show, Stanford University.

Officers of the Club for 1903 were elected as follows: President, H. R. Taylor; senior vice president, W. Otto Emerson; junior vice president, Chas. S. Thompson; treasurer-business manager, Joseph Grinnell; secretary, C. R. Keyes. Mr. Taylor then took the chair and appointed Mr. Walter K. Fisher as editor of the Club's official organ and also as an additional member of the committee on arrangements for the Club's tenth anniversary meeting. After a dinner, and an informal exhibit of photographs by Mr. Finley and Mr. Beck, the Club adjourned to meet with President Taylor in Alameda on March 7.

C. R. KEYES, Secretary.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.

JANUARY.—The January meeting of the Southern Division was held on the 31st at the residence of H. J. Lelande, Los Angeles, with Mr. Daggett presiding. The following members were present: Messrs. Renwick, Richardson, Howard, Daggett, Swarth, Robertson and Lelande. Mr. Herbert Brown whose name was proposed for membership at the January meeting was duly elected. The secretary read a communication from Rev. F. Reiser tendering his resignation as a member of the club. On motion the resignation was accepted. A very interesting paper by Mr. C. S. Sharp, "Some Unusual Nests of the Bullock Oriole," was read and photographs of nests exhibited. A paper on "Bird Notes from Eastern California and Western Arizona" by Mr. F. Stephens was read by Mr. Daggett. After discussing various bird subjects the meeting adjourned.

H. J. LELANDE, Secretary.