

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY VOLUME

In 1899 a small but ardent group of western ornithologists embarked on the publication of its own journal, *The Bulletin of the Cooper Ornithological Club*. After a year of development, this became *The Condor*, and today it begins its fiftieth volume. Fifty years is a long period in the West, and in this time changes in human occupancy, outlook, and custom have been profound. But the concern for the natural scholarship of bird study that initiated this publication remains as intense today. Indeed this study is now pursued by a company of members fifteen fold greater, of wide geographic horizon, and with a great catholicity of interest just so long as the real subject is birds. New techniques and accumulating information have complicated the field of ornithology and have shifted some points of emphasis, as they should. Science cannot stand still, yet how basically constant is our underlying purpose in the ornithological field, we appreciate when we note the present cogency of the statements of our first editor, Chester Barlow, in the first number of the *Bulletin*: "The West is rich in its possibilities of new discoveries, both in faunal forms and data regarding the life histories of many species, and through the field of a widely distributed corps of members, the Club hopes to present many papers of special value to science."

This volume of *The Condor*, as all past, and we trust many to come, we then dedicate to a never diminishing scientific curiosity about those animals of compelling interest, the birds. It is, moreover, a monument to those persons moved by the worthiness of this scholarship who have through changing times and recurrent difficulties devotedly given their energies to the writing, financing, and production of the fifty-year record of our studies.