

THE CONDOR.

Bulletin of the

COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB OF CALIFORNIA.

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This issue of the Bulletin was mailed Mar. 16.
EDITORIAL NOTES.

Club We take pleasure in presenting
Collection a suggestion offered by Mr. Frank
of S. Daggett, one of the energetic
Photographs members of the Southern Division
of the Club in the matter of start-
ing a Club collection of portraits. Everyone
knows how an exchange of photographs con-
tributes to the fraternal feeling which exists
between correspondents, and the writer recalls
several collections of portraits of ornithologists
which are prized by their owners and which
seldom fail to interest visiting naturalists.

Why not, then, have an "ornithological gal-
lery" for the Cooper Ornithological Club? The
idea need only be assented to by each member
to receive an impetus. Mr. Daggett's excellent
suggestions best convey the plan. He writes:
"The idea is to gather photographs of parties at
a time when they are active in their work, such
photographs being of great interest twenty or
thirty years hence. I would suggest that the
CONDOR start some such movement; it need not
necessarily be a 'Rogue's Gallery,' but a collec-
tion of the ornithologists of the United States
and Canada, gradually extending to those of
other countries. If the Club has no place for
such a collection where it could be accessible
at all times, it would be an easy matter to find
a large scientific body to act as custodian, but
I think the Club the proper custodian."

Now let the Club members give voice to their
ideas in the matter. Where shall the collec-
tion be kept if begun, and will each reader of
the CONDOR help on the effort by the donation
of a portrait? Were each member of the Club
to respond, we would immediately have nearly
100 photographs as a nucleus. Mr. Daggett's
suggestion is a timely one and should be met

with a hearty response, as it involves but little
trouble on the part of each individual.

An Several years ago our fellow-
"Exchange member, Mr. John W. Mailliard
Bureau." of San Francisco, proposed the forma-
tion of an Exchange Bureau as
a means of promoting the exchange of spec-
imens among Californians. The idea was a
feasible one, but through insufficient organiza-
tion in the Club at that date, nothing came of
the suggestion. With the present perfect work-
ing organization of the Club and its ability to
thoroughly represent each and every member
in any matter of mutual welfare, there is no
reason why an Exchange Bureau of permanent
value to the Club's members cannot success-
fully be organized.

Such an organization could be conducted
with proper dignity and in a business-like man-
ner, and would serve to promptly fill many
wants, whereas such gaps now remain open un-
til a chance exchange supplies what is wanted.
It would result, too, in more exchanging being
done in California, and the subsequent up-
building of western collections. To inaugurate
the movement any member or officer of the
Club could be selected to act as manager of the
Bureau, and to him each member would, at
stated periods, be asked to mail a list of spec-
imens he could offer in exchange as also his list
of wants. The descriptions in skins should be
explicit, such as "Rufous-crowned Sparrow, ♂
or ♀, Thurber's Junco, ♂ juv.," etc. Upon
the receipt of all lists the manager would com-
bine them into a printed sheet, each list of
wants and exchange material to be printed
over the name and address of its sender.

This completed list would then be mailed to
each Club member who would know to a nicety
just what material was obtainable at the time,
and also if his surplus specimens were desired
by anyone. Correspondence would then follow
directly between parties interested, and with-
out further effort to the Club. Thus would an
Exchange Bureau operate, and the lists might
be compiled and sent out twice a year at a very
small expense to the Club. Is the idea worth
trying? We think so. Now that the organiza-
tion of the Club has been so perfectly estab-
lished, let us begin to inaugurate some of the
many possible meritorious movements which
will directly benefit members and cause them
to value their membership the more. The in-
auguration of the Exchange Bureau idea rests
with the members of the Club.

It is seldom that the vandals who supply the
millinery trade with bird skins ply their voca-
tion openly, but such a person has come to
light in the form of W. B. Caraway, "Bird
Man," Alma, Arkansas. Mr. Caraway under
the pretensions of dealing in song birds sends
out a circular, at the end of which is a para-
graph reading: "We can furnish birds skins
and skins of small animals (native) for tax-
idermists and millinery purposes in large quan-
tities at reasonable prices. Located in the
South, we are in a position to furnish almost all
kinds of native birds." If there are any peace
officers in this portion of Arkansas, and any
statutes protecting song or other birds, it would

appear that here is an excellent opportunity of gathering in a brazen violator of the law, who does not respect the common property and rights of others.

The *Western Ornithologist*, dated Vol. V, No. 1, January-February 1900, has made its appearance and announces itself as a continuation of the *Iowa Ornithologist*, formerly edited by David L. Savage, who now becomes associate editor, while Chas. C. Tryon assumes editorial control, the publication being issued from Avoca, Iowa. The initial number is a very creditable one in every way, consisting of 24 pages of text, printed on coated paper with an appropriate cover, and very similar in make-up to the current ornithological magazines. The leading article is on "The Plumage of the Bluejay," by Morton E. Peck. Five other interesting articles of length, several illustrations and short notes complete the issue. The publication makes a promising start, and will, we trust, prove a permanent organ for workers in the Middle States.



Book Reviews.

BIRD NOTES AFIELD. By Chas. A. Keeler, pp. 1-233, with appendix and key 237-353, Elder & Shepard, San Francisco. \$1.50 net.

In the present work Mr. Keeler has given the public a series of entertaining essays on the characteristic birds of California, and has done it so cleverly that even those who are wont to judge bird literature by its scientific aspect alone must follow Mr. Keeler's sketches afield with keen pleasure. The author states in the preface that the work has not been written for scientists, but the descriptive talks bear evidence of the author's intimate knowledge of technical ornithology, for the work is commendable in being at once a popular treatise, yet everywhere marked with accuracy of descriptions.

Bird Notes Afield consists of thirteen essays, under titles such as "A First Glance at the Birds," "Patrolling the Beach," "A Trip to the Farallones," "March in the Pine Woods," "Nesting Time," etc., each chapter covering concisely the birds which a beginner would most likely meet in the surroundings described in the chapter. Each essay is descriptive of experiences and impressions which every ornithologist has enjoyed in counterpart afield, and the work therefore becomes one which we can appreciate. The author states in his mention of the nest-building of Anna's Hummingbird (p. 200) that "both parents labor upon the home." This statement will be questioned by many observers who have failed to detect the male bird assisting in the construction of the nest.

An artificial key to the land birds of California occupies the remaining 116 pages and is most creditable in its arrangement, and by its use the beginner should be able to identify

many of our common birds at least. In the key the distribution of species has wisely been fixed chiefly from Belding's Land Birds of the Pacific District. The volume with its key, completes one of the ablest initiatory works on California birds that has been given the public, and those who are seeking a work of this scope will not be slow in according Mr. Keeler's book the recognition it easily merits.

C. B.

LOOMIS.—CALIFORNIA WATER BIRDS, NO. IV.*
This is a continuation of Mr. Loomis's observations on the water birds off the coast of Monterey County. Twenty-five pages are taken up with a detailed "Calendar" or diary of daily observations made from Sept. 18 to Nov. 14, 1896. Special notes were made on any phenomena which might bear on the subject of migration. Six pages at the close of the paper are devoted to a briefly annotated list of the species detected. Binomials, alone, are used in this list, the third or subspecific names of the races being omitted. A notable addition to the list of North American Birds is here for the first time recorded; viz., Buller's Shearwater (*Puffinus bulleri*); a ♀ "perhaps a young one," was taken by Mr. Loomis six miles west of Point Pinos, Nov. 6, 1896. It is the fourth specimen known to science, the other three having been obtained in "New Zealand seas."

Under the head of "Conclusions" comes thirteen pages constituting the important part of the paper, which is, in fact, an essay on migration. Mr. Loomis here sets forth his views on the method and causes of migration, and the evidence or data on which these are based. The subjects are simply and clearly presented, yet condensed so as to be entirely devoid of superfluity. Abundant references in the footnotes attest Mr. Loomis's familiarity with literature pertaining to the questions in hand, and the whole matter is evidently the results of long and careful study. The present reviewer is not sufficiently well informed on the subject to be able to intelligently discuss this article, and he can do little but touch on one or two points which happen to appeal to him.

Under the heading "Guidance by Physical Phenomena," observations are cited of migrating Shearwaters becoming apparently bewildered when the land was hidden by a fog, and of their immediately resuming their way when the fog was dispelled sufficiently to reveal the land-marks. Local species which were familiar with the neighborhood did not evince this bewilderment, but seemed to keep their bearings. "Perhaps those moving at considerable elevation are guided by the mountain tops which rise above the low vapors." In the case of migrants over the sea "currents and winds may possibly be the directing phenomena." "These directions seem to prove: 1. That the Shear-