

Land Birds of Marin County, Cal.

BY JOS. MAILLIARD, SAN GERONIMO, CAL.

Among the many counties in this large state, Marin county occupies a somewhat unique position, its situation being similar to only one other. This is San Francisco county, which being very small, covering not much more than the city limits, cuts but little figure ornithologically. Marin itself is one of the smallest counties in the state, yet it has a considerable area, being somewhat in the shape of a diamond with the longer diagonal about forty-three miles and the shorter thirty.

The peculiarity of its position lies in the fact that on three sides of the diamond is salt water. Three-fourths of its boundary is coast line, the actual contour of the shore probably making it more than five-sixths of the total. The western and south-western sides are washed by the Pacific Ocean while San Francisco Bay limits the eastern. As its short northern side is not near any large valley or river it is practically cut off from any direct natural line of north and south migration. All birds flying into the county from the south have to cross San Francisco Bay, while those migrating south must cross it when they leave. In consequence of this those birds which do not make long, strong flights seem only to wander in from their regular routes more in the manner of stragglers than of regular migrants.

For instance, the big flight of Louisiana Tanagers in 1896 which was notable throughout the state, only touched this county to a slight extent, but very few birds having been noticed. Yet many of the regular immigrants must cross the bay, for at the period of the first spring migrations, they are seen in the southern part, where it is warmer, sometimes two or three weeks before they arrive in the interior. These first arrivals apparently come over from San Francisco or Alameda county. It is possible that some birds, like the *Helminthophila c. lutescens* for instance, may come in from Sonoma county on the north and follow the warmer bay shore until they reach the southern extremity of Marin county before venturing into the interior, but there are no observers in the right spots to determine this.

The county is for the most part exceedingly hilly, almost mountainous, and a large proportion of its area is covered with either timber or brush. Of the timbered areas there are three divisions; the redwood, which is intermingled with and runs into fir, bay, madrone etc.; the pine and the oak regions. Each has a bird life peculiar to itself, yet there are certain birds common to all. The redwood region and immediate vicinity contains by far the majority of *Cyanocitta s. frontalis*, *Certhia f. occidentalis* and *Anorthura h. pacificus* for instance. The pine region harbors the *Sitta pygmaea* almost exclusively, while the oak region, which is like parts of Sonoma county and in fact is an extension of that county's oak region, is inhabited by the *Sitta c. aculeata*, *Parus inornatus* etc.

The brushy areas are also of several distinct kinds, but these merge into one another more or less, and with the exception of perhaps the sage, cyanothus and salmon berry regions, need not be considered as having peculiar avifauna. And indeed these three only seem to be attractive to certain birds at certain seasons. For example, if that occasional winter visitant, the *Passerella i. megarhyncha*, is here at all it is only found on the tops of the hills among the cyanothus. Again in the spring the *Aimophila ruficeps* is found and probably breeds in the sage brush, and yet in late summer may be observed among poison oak bushes and blackberry vines on grassy hillsides far away from the sage.

The temperature, especially in winter, varies a great deal in different parts of the county, and the habits of the birds vary accordingly. The bay shore enjoys a much more equable winter temperature than the interior, in consequence of which House Finches and Hummingbirds may be found all winter in San Rafael, which is on the edge of a salt water marsh, while never found during De-

cember and January a few miles further inland, where the mercury has a way of tumbling down to 16° or 18° on any clear morning during those months.

The ocean side of the county has an equable temperature also, but is wind swept and bleak, and is very similar to that portion of San Francisco county between the city and the ocean shore, having large areas of sand and lupines, which are the breeding homes of *Zonotrichia l. gambeli*. Quite a stretch of the northern-most portion of the ocean side however, is open grass land and consists of low rolling hills, with but little timber or brush. This portion has not been closely observed to my knowledge and may contain some forms unfamiliar to me. The following list of Land Birds is made up from the observations of many years made by my brother and myself, with occasional aid from C. A. Allen of this place. This sketch of the county is only intended to give a sort of general idea of its characteristics in relation to its avifauna, enabling one to arrive at a better understanding of the subject.

- 1 *Lophortyx californicus*. CALIFORNIA PARTRIDGE. Common resident.
- 2 *Columba fasciata*. BAND-TAILED PIGEON. Breeds sparingly; Occasionally very numerous in fall or winter.
- 3 *Zenaidura macroura*. MOURNING DOVE. Breeds abundantly; sparingly resident in winter.
- 4 *Cathartes aura*. TURKEY VULTURE. Common resident. Breeds, probably sparingly.
- 5 *Elanus leucurus*. WHITE-TAILED KITE. Occasional visitor; no breeding record.
- 6 *Circus hudsonius*. MARSH HAWK. Common winter resident.
- 7 *Accipiter velox*. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. Common winter resident.
- 8 *Accipiter cooperi*. COOPER'S HAWK. Common winter resident.
- 9 *Accipiter a. striatulus*. WESTERN GOSHAWK. Rare visitor.
- 10 *Buteo b. calurus*. WESTERN REDTAIL. Common resident. Nests in neighborhood of San Geronimo in tall firs and redwoods; other localities in large oaks.
- 11 *Buteo l. elegans*. RED-BELLIED HAWK. Occasional winter visitant.
- 12 *Archibuteo ferrugineus*. FERRUGINOUS ROUGH-LEG. Rare. Presumably resident in one or two localities.
- 13 *Aquila chrysaetos*. GOLDEN EAGLE. Sparingly resident.
- 14 *Falco p. anatum*. DUCK HAWK. Rare resident. A few breed on some of the rugged cliffs on ocean shore.
- 15 *Falco columbarius*. PIGEON HAWK. Probably very rare visitant. One shot by myself, but not recovered and consequently identification not confirmed.
- 16 *Falco s. deserticolus*. DESERT SPARROW HAWK. Common resident; quite numerous.
- 17 *Pandion h. carolinensis*. AMERICAN OSPREY. Very rare visitant. Three seen at various times at Lake Lagunitas and one taken.
- 18 *Strix pratincola*. AMERICAN BARN OWL. Common resident; not numerous.
- 19 *Asio wilsonianus*. AMERICAN LONG-EARED OWL. Resident in redwood and fir forests. Probably not very abundant.
- 20 *Asio accipitrinus*. SHORT-EARED OWL. Common on salt water marshes in winter and presumably resident.
- 21 *Megascops a. bendirei*. CALIFORNIA SCREECH OWL. Very abundant resident.
- 22 *Bubo virginianus subarcticus* (?) WESTERN (?) HORNED OWL. Common resident; numerous.
- 23 *Speotyto c. hypogaea*. BURROWING OWL. Sparingly resident in restricted areas.
- 24 *Glaucidium g. californicum*. CALIFORNIA PYGMY OWL. Common resident; not numerous.
- 25 *Geococcyx californianus*. ROAD-RUNNER. Very sparingly resident.
- 26 *Coccyzus a. occidentalis*. CALIFORNIA CUCKOO. Doubtful. Some reported as having been seen at Olema in 1898, but no specimens taken.

- 27 *Ceryle alcyon*. BELTED KINGFISHER. Common resident; not very numerous.
- 28 *Dryobates v. harrisi*. HARRIS' WOODPECKER. Common resident; not very abundant.
- 29 *Dryobates p. gairdnerii*. GAIRDNER'S WOODPECKER. Common resident; rather numerous.
- 30 *Dryobates nuttalli*. NUTTALL'S WOODPECKER. Exceedingly rare visitant in major portion of county, but more numerous near northern boundary.
- 31 *Sphyrapicus v. nuchalis*. RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER. Very rare visitant. Three specimens taken at San Geronimo; no further record.
- 32 *Sphyrapicus ruber*. RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER. Common resident in winter. Never very numerous; mostly females. Out of twenty-seven specimens taken by us in the last four years only five were males.
- 33 *Melanerpes f. bairdi*. CALIFORNIAN WOODPECKER. Common resident. Not very numerous except near northern boundary.
- 34 *Melanerpes torquatus*. LEWIS' WOODPECKER. Occasional visitant. No breeding record.
- 35 *Colaptes auratus*. FLICKER. We have taken one or two specimens of *Colaptes* in winter that are almost typical *auratus*. The cross breeds between *auratus* and *cafer* are comparatively numerous in winter, showing every possible combination.
- 36 *Colaptes cafer*. RED-SHAFTED FLICKER. Abundantly resident. In winter some specimens approach *saturator*.
- 37 *Phalacroptilus n. californicus*. DUSKY POOR-WILL. Springly resident in rocky parts of the county.
- 38 *Chaetura vauxii*. VAUX'S SWIFT. Abundant at times; breeds sparingly; probably resident in limited numbers.
- 39 *Calypte anna*. ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD. Springly resident in winter, but very numerous in spring and summer. Breeds very extensively through a long season.
- 40 *Selasphorus rufus*. RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD. Abundant immigrant in early spring. Breeds sparingly and not very abundant in summer.
- 41 *Selasphorus alleni*. ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD. Sparingly (?) resident in winter, but breeds abundantly from February to July. Have taken none in early winter, but have seen some in San Rafael that were apparently of this species.
- 42 *Tyrannus verticalis*. ARKANSAS KINGBIRD. Common summer resident. Breeds abundantly. Earliest record April 4.
- 43 *Myiarchus cinerascens*. ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER. Common summer resident; not very abundant. Earliest record April 18.
- 44 *Sayornis saya*. SAY'S PHOEBE. Sparingly winter resident.
- 45 *Sayornis nigricans*. BLACK PHOEBE. Common resident; comparatively abundant.
- 46 *Contopus borealis*. OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER. Sparingly summer resident in firs and redwoods. Earliest record April 28.
- 47 *Contopus richardsonii*. WESTERN WOOD PEWEE. Abundant summer resident. Earliest record April 26.
- 48 *Empidonax difficilis*. WESTERN FLYCATCHER. Abundant summer resident. Earliest record March 30.
- 49 *Otocoris a. chrysolæma*. MEXICAN HORNED LARK. Sparingly resident in certain localities.
- 50 *Cyanocitta s. frontalis*. BLUE-FRONTED JAY. (An intermediate form between *stelleri* and *s. frontalis*.) Very abundant resident among the fir and redwood forests.
- 51 *Aphelocoma californica*. CALIFORNIA JAY. Very abundant resident.
- 52 *Corvus c. sinuatus*. AMERICAN RAVEN. Sparingly resident; scattered pairs inhabiting certain fixed localities.

- 53 *Corvus americanus* (?) AMERICAN (?) CROW. (Seems to be intermediate between *americanus* and *caurinus*.) Common resident; very numerous along the bay shores.
- 54 *Agelaius g. californicus*. BICOLORED BLACKBIRD. Abundant summer resident. Occasionally seen casually among flocks of *Scolecophagus cyanocephalus* during latter part of winter, and probably sparingly resident in marshes on bay shore.
- 55 *Agelaius tricolor*. TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD. Spring and fall migrant; sometimes passing through in great quantities, going north in May and June, and south in September. Some years not observed in fall and but few seen in spring.
- 56 *Sturnella m. neglecta*. WESTERN MEADOWLARK. Common resident; fairly abundant.
- 57 *Icterus bullocki*. BULLOCK'S ORIOLE. Common summer resident. Abundant in some parts. Earliest record April 8.
- 58 *Scolecophagus cyanocephalus*. BREWER'S BLACKBIRD. Very abundant resident.
- 59 *Coccothraustes v. montanus*. WESTERN EVENING GROSBEAK. Exceedingly rare visitant. One in collection taken near Olema in November, and has been reported as seen on one or two occasions; probably accidental.
- 60 *Carpodacus p. californicus*. CALIFORNIA PURPLE FINCH. Common resident; rather abundant.
- 61 *Carpodacus m. frontalis*. HOUSE FINCH. Very abundant summer resident, and sparingly in winter in some warmer spots.
- 62 *Loxia c. stricklandi* (?) MEXICAN (?) CROSSBILL. (Seems to be intermediate between *minor* and *stricklandi*.) Occasional winter visitant. Comes in flocks and does not remain long.
- 63 *Astragalinus t. salicamans*. WILLOW GOLDFINCH. Common summer resident in some portions of county; not abundant.
- 64 *Astragalinus psaltria*. ARKANSAS GOLDFINCH. Resident; abundant in summer, sparingly in winter.
- 65 *Astragalinus lawrencei*. LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH. Summer resident; some years abundant and other years rare; arrives about May 10.
- 66 *Spinus pinus*. PINE SISKIN. Resident. Abundant in large flocks in winter; scattered in breeding season.
- 67 *Ammodramus s. alaudinus*. WESTERN SAVANNA SPARROW. Abundant winter resident.
- 68 *Ammodramus s. bryanti*. BRYANT'S MARSH SPARROW. Resident in marshes along San Francisco Bay.
- 69 *Ammodramus s. perpallidus*. WESTERN GRASSHOPPER SPARROW. Sparingly summer resident.
- 70 *Chondestes g. strigatus*. WESTERN LARK SPARROW. Abundant resident.
- 71 *Zonotrichia l. intermedia*. INTERMEDIATE SPARROW. Reported by C. A. Allen. We have never taken any in this county.
- 72 *Zonotrichia l. gambeli*. GAMBEL'S SPARROW. Very abundant resident in winter, but in breeding season only found among the lupins of the Point Reyes region. Comes to San Geronimo, which is about 15 miles from the breeding ground, in September and leaves in end of April.
- 73 *Zonotrichia coronata*. GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW. Abundant winter resident. Arrives in September and leaves in April.
- 74 *Spizella s. arizonæ*. WESTERN CHIPPING SPARROW. Abundant summer resident.
- 75 *Junco h. oregonus*. OREGON JUNCO. Abundant winter resident. Arrive in latter part of September and leave in April.
- 76 *Junco h. thurberi*. THURBER'S JUNCO. Occasional summer resident. Nest and parent found and given to us, but bird almost destroyed and eggs nearly hatched. Apparently *thurberi*. Adult and juvenile seen in July and August, but none taken. Presumably *thurberi*.

77 *Amphispiza belli*. BELL'S SPARROW. Breeds in limited numbers. Abundant immigrant in summer after breeding season. In some years sparingly winter resident.

78 *Aimophila ruficeps*. RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROW. Summer resident in very limited localities, never abundant. Passes through in August and September migrating south. Occasionally taken in winter.

79 *Melospiza f. samuelis*. SAMUEL'S SONG SPARROW. Common resident. Abundant on marshes.

80 *Melospiza f. guttata*. RUSTY SONG SPARROW. Winter resident. Never abundant. Arrives in September and October.

81 *Melospiza lincolni*. LINCOLN'S SPARROW. Sparingly winter resident. Earliest record September 18.

82 *Passerella i. unalaschcensis*. TOWNSEND'S SPARROW. Abundant winter resident. Arrives in September and beginning of October.

83 *Passerella i. megarhyncha*. THICK-BILLED SPARROW. Some winters more or less abundant on the summits of brushy ranges. Other years none observed. Usually present only in very cold winters and during the coldest part. In 1897 a few taken in September. These were possibly a brood raised by parents that had been partially crippled in the previous winter.

84 *Pipilo m. oregonus*. OREGON TOWHEE. Common resident; comparatively abundant.

85 *Pipilo f. crissalis*. CALIFORNIAN TOWHEE. Abundant resident.

86 *Zamelodia melanocephala*. BLACK-HEADED GROSBEEK. Abundant summer resident. April 13 earliest record.

87 *Cyanospiza amœna*. LAZULI BUNTING. Abundant summer resident. Our earliest record May 7 (C. A. Allen April 27.)

88 *Piranga ludoviciana*. LOUISIANA TANAGER. Spring migrant, going north. Generally rare at this time, but some years abundant. Also late summer immigrant, numbers coming into the country when fruit is ripe and remaining during greater part of August and September, mostly birds of the year.

89 *Progne s. hesperia*. WESTERN MARTIN. Sparingly summer resident.

90 *Petrochelidon lunifrons*. CLIFF SWALLOW. Abundant summer resident. Earliest record March 24.

91 *Hirundo erythrogaster*. BARN SWALLOW. Common summer resident. Our earliest record April 9 (C. A. Allen March 31.)

92 *Tachycineta bicolor*. TREE SWALLOW. Summer resident. Abundant in white oak regions.

93 *Tachycineta thalassina*. VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW. Abundant spring migrant. Sparingly summer resident.

94 *Clivicola riparia*. BANK SWALLOW. Abundant summer resident in favorable localities.

95 *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW. Common summer resident.

96 *Ampelis cedrorum*. CEDAR WAXWING. Spring and fall migrant. Never observed in very large quantities.

97 *Phainopepla nitens*. PHAINOPEPLA. Notes heard on one occasion. Never seen.

98 *Lanius l. gambeli*. CALIFORNIA SHRIKE. Sparingly resident.

99 *Vireo gilvus*. WARBLING VIREO. Abundant summer resident. Earliest record March 28.

100 *Vireo s. cassinii*. CASSIN'S VIREO. Rare visitant. One fall record only.

101 *Vireo huttoni*. HUTTON'S VIREO. Abundant resident.

102 *Helminthophila c. lutescens*. LUTESCENT WARBLER. Abundant summer resident. First observed February 15.

103 *Dendroica œstiva*. YELLOW WARBLER. Common summer resident.

104 *Dendroica coronata*. MYRTLE WARBLER. Sparingly winter resident.

- 105 *Dendroica auduboni*. AUDUBON'S WARBLER. Abundant winter resident. Arrives about September 25.
- 106 *Dendroica nigrescens*. BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER. Very rare fall visitant. Only two records.
- 107 *Dendroica townsendi*. TOWNSEND'S WARBLER. Rare winter visitant.
- 108 *Geothlypis tolmiei*. MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER. Sparingly summer resident. Earliest observed April 5.
- 109 *Geothlypis t. occidentalis*. WESTERN YELLOW-THROAT. Summer resident on the marshes. Rather abundant in favorable localities.
- 110 *Icteria v. longicauda*. LONG-TAILED CHAT. Rare spring visitant.
- 111 *Wilsonia p. pileolata*. PILEOLATED WARBLER. Abundant summer resident. First observed March 26.
- 112 *Anthus pensilvanicus*. AMERICAN PIPIT. Abundant winter resident.
- 113 *Cinclus mexicanus*. AMERICAN DIPPER. A pair formerly bred near the headwaters of Lagunitas Creek. None seen for some years.
- 114 *Mimus polyglottos*. MOCKINGBIRD. One specimen taken by C. A. Allen. No other record.
- 115 *Harporhynchus redivivus*. CALIFORNIAN THRASHER. Notes heard among thick chaparral, but no record.
- 116 *Salpinctes obsoletus*. ROCK WREN. Very sparingly fall migrant, except on rocky cliffs on ocean shore, where it breeds in limited numbers.
- 117 *Thryomanes b. spilurus*. VIGOR'S WREN. Abundant resident.
- 118 *Troglodytes a. parkmanii*. PARKMAN'S WREN. Common summer resident. Not very abundant.
- 119 *Anorthura h. pacificus*. WESTERN WINTER WREN. Common winter resident.
- 120 *Cistothorus p. paludicola*. TULE WREN. Common resident of the tule swamps and marshes.
- 121 *Certhia f. occidentalis*. CALIFORNIA CREEPER. Common resident. Not abundant.
- 122 *Sitta c. aculeata*. SLENDER-BILLED NUTHATCH. Rare winter visitant at San Geronimo, but probably resident near Sonoma county line.
- 123 *Sitta canadensis*. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. Very abundant in August and September 1898, leaving in October. Never recorded before and not seen since.
- 124 *Sitta pygmaea*. PYGMY NUTHATCH. Sparingly resident in a limited area in Point Reyes district.
- 125 *Parus inornatus*. PLAIN TITMOUSE. Rare winter visitor at San Geronimo. Probably resident near Sonoma county line.
- 126 *Parus r. neglectus*. CALIFORNIA CHICKADEE. Abundant resident.
- 127 *Chamaea fasciata*. WREN TIT. Abundant resident.
- 128 *Psaltriparus m. californicus*. CALIFORNIAN BUSH TIT. Abundant resident.
- 129 *Regulus s. olivaceus*. WESTERN GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET. Irregular winter visitant. Most numerous in early spring.
- 130 *Regulus calendula*. RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET. Abundant winter resident. Arrives in end of September. Almost all males.
- 131 *Poliioptila c. obscura*. WESTERN GNATCATCHER. Late summer visitant. Sometimes abundant in August. Stays a few weeks on its way south.
- 132 *Myadestes townsendii*. TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE. Occasional winter visitor on tops of higher ranges during a very cold season. Never numerous; only recorded three times.
- 133 *Hylocichla ustulata*. RUSSET-BACKED THRUSH. Common summer resident. Our earliest record May 7. (C. A. Allen April 23.)
- 134 *Hylocichla aonalaschkae*. DWARF HERMIT THRUSH. Abundant winter resident. At San Geronimo almost every specimen taken has proved to be a male. Earliest record September 26.
- 135 *Merula m. propinqua*. WESTERN ROBIN. Abundant winter resident.

Scarce in occasional dry winters. Usually some arrivals about October 15, but bulk of arrivals varying with seasons.

136 *Hesperocichla nevada*. VARIED THRUSH. Abundant winter resident. Bulk of arrivals early in November. Leaves in April.

137 *Sialia m. occidentalis*. WESTERN BLUEBIRD. Abundant resident.

*"Summer Resident"—breeds.



Communications.

Concerning the Active Membership of the A. O. U.

Editor THE CONDOR:

The question has often been asked since I came to California why so few of our workers are included in the "active" list of the A. O. U. Following up this idea one is at once impressed with the fact that among our western ornithologists there is a strong feeling that we, as a whole, should be better and more fairly represented in that body.

When the A. O. U. was founded, I believe in 1883, there was comparatively little interest in ornithology and that mainly confined to the scientific centers of the East, so it was very natural that its membership at that time should be made up from that section. Certainly the timber selected at that time was so sound that the ornithologists of the country have accepted that body as their authority ever since, and no doubt will continue to do so for all time provided it broadens and expands to meet the changed conditions which confront it from year to year. Up to the present time the A. O. U. has maintained a policy of seclusion by adhering arbitrarily to a rule that limits its active list to fifty members, to the exclusion of many worthy workers, and I find a strong sentiment exists that this policy be changed. Right here it might be well to mention some of the many reasons given why the West, (and by that I mean all that section of the country not under the direct inspection of the Eastern scientific centers) should be more fully recognized in that body. The one most often put forward is the fact that interest, instead of being confined to a little coterie in the East, has spread all over the country until every state has its workers; not mere dabblers and "bird skimmers," but active, intelligent workers who are covering their respective fields with credit.

Take California for instance with its Cooper Ornithological Club containing a membership of 90, supporting an organ "The Condor," which has almost a monopoly of original articles covering western field notes and discoveries. Other states are forging to the front and today instead of depending upon occasional expeditions and trips to these far-away points, which at best could make but a cursory examination, we have active workers

on the ground the year around; in fact, now that the East has been so thoroughly gleaned and threshed, it is to these remote parts and to these same workers that the East must look for detailed facts concerning our least known birds. It certainly is an important event when an expedition returns with a new species to describe, but it is also important to learn the life history of that species and that is what our western workers are doing today, and the facts regarding migration, distribution and habits of western birds are as important to the world as were those which gave reputation to the founders of the A. O. U.

Another reason often mentioned why the A. O. U. should enlarge its active list, or take such action as will infuse new blood into its veins as a specific against old age, is the fact that many of its members have completed their life work or, in other words, while they retain interest in ornithology, they have ceased to be "active" in the full sense of the word. One cannot say that they are entirely shelved for their names are still to conjure by, but their life work is behind them and in numbers are out of all proportion to an active list limited to 50. I doubt if there are really 30 active members in the A. O. U. Each year this fact becomes more apparent, and it is only a question of time when the Union will be dominated by a handful of men, if it has not already reached that point. So there is reason for the demand that instead of contracting while all else is expanding, it should meet the conditions which prevail and give all sections representation that represents.

It has not been made plain how the A. O. U. had best meet the question, but the simplest way would be to increase the number to 60 or 75, or it might provide for the advancement of an "active" member after he had completed his life work to an "honorary" list, filling the vacancy in the active list from the best material at hand; but this is only a matter of detail. What I wish to emphasize is the fact that there is an organization in the U. S. supported by the leading ornithologists, its "active" membership composed of men who have been, and many are now, our most active ornithologists, becoming each year more inactive by the shelving on account of ill health, or otherwise, of its older members; maintaining a policy which prevents an ornithologist of equal calibre from taking the place he is entitled to in the council of the elect.