

THE CONDOR.

Bulletin of the

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This issue of The Condor was mailed July 14.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

To the activity of the A. O. U. Committee on Bird Protection and the Audubon Society is largely due the agreement which the Millinery Protective Association was forced to enter into recently. This agreement, although almost entirely prohibitive of the use of the plumage of American birds for millinery purposes, is probably a more generous concession than the Millinery Association would have secured had they not conciliated the efforts of the bird protectionists. The public is familiar with the text of the Lacey Act introduced by Hon. John F. Lacey of Iowa during the last session of Congress and which was calculated to protect and restore the wild birds of America. The bill contained sweeping clauses prohibiting the interstate shipment of all birds killed in violation of any state or territorial law and the pressure brought to bear upon Congress for the passage of the bill was so wide-spread that its fate was never in doubt.

The millinery fraternity, observing this, lost no time in making terms with the A. O. U. Committee on Bird Protection and an agreement was entered into by both parties. By its terms the milliners agree not to "kill or buy any more North American birds from hunters or such people who make it a business to destroy North American birds." The dealers will be allowed until Jan. 1, 1902, to dispose of the stock of birds now on hand and they claim in return the privilege of using "the plumage or skins of barnyard fowl, edible birds or game

birds killed in their season and birds of foreign countries *not* of the species of North American birds."

While the Millinery Association has consented to terms, it is equally evident that the action was brought about not because they recognized a wrong or desired to correct it. Previous to this time they have, as a body, persistently ignored the protectionists, and now when their trade is threatened with annihilation, they are forced to consent to anything which will admit of the enormous stock now on hand being utilized. The protectionists have scored a signal victory and the arch-enemy of the Audubonians has met with a complete rout!

Without doubt a great mass of sentiment in favor of the Lacey Act came from the constituents of the senators and congressmen throughout the Union. All were not Audubonians—perhaps but a small percentage—but the fact remains that through the constant agitation of the question of bird protection, the public has become inspired with an interest in wild birds, and the influence has been wide-spread. To this was directly due the passage of the act and the forcing of the milliners into an agreement.

The Audubonians and all other bird protectionists have won a victory worthy of their efforts, and have secured protection for the birds in a manner so thorough and sweeping that its accomplishment seems little short of marvelous. To the Hon. John F. Lacey belongs a vast amount of credit for his persistent work in Congress in behalf of bird legislation, and the fund now being created by *Recreation* of New York City with which to purchase an appropriate testimonial for Congressman Lacey should be generously patronized by ornithologists.

June has been productive of another aspirant to the field of ornithological journalism, in the form of *The Bittern*, published by Glen M. Hathorn at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The initial number consists of twenty pages, well printed, the leading articles being "My Bittern Bog," by P. B. Peabody, "Ptarmigans" by Morris Gibbs and "A Day Afield" by Glen M. Hathorn. We extend to *The Bittern* our well wishes for its success as a magazine of the middle west.

Those who have whiled away weeks or even days in the great timber-belt of the higher Sierras, will find their natures chording involuntarily with the sentiment which marks Mr. Belding's Sierra poem on another page. Mr. Belding is easily the veteran ornithologist and naturalist of this great region, and little wonder it is that after many summers spent in its great forests of conifers and along its mountain streams, that his nature gives expression to some of the impressive beauties it has absorbed.

In this issue of THE CONDOR, Mr. Jos. Grinnell does a valuable service to ornithologists whose lots are cast in the San Francisco Bay region. The over-lapping or intergradation of the northern and southern races of many species often reaches its most puzzling form in this region, making work among the birds at best unsatisfactory, as the majority of the *Pipilos*, *Juncos* and others are not separable into any of the several distinct races. Mr. Grinnell proposes to overcome this in the Wren-Tits by describing an intermediate race for the Bay region. This seems an easy and correct solution of the difficulty, and it is to be hoped that the other groups will receive similar treatment. Eastern workers generally know little of the troubles which beset their western brethren because of this intergradation of species.

As will be seen in another column, the fine scientific collection of the late Alphonse Forrer is offered for sale, and it is to be hoped that it will be secured by some Californian museum. Mr. Forrer did much work on the Tres Marias Islands off Mexico and his collection is correspondingly strong in western material. We learn that the mammal and bird skins alone are valued at \$1800, while the rest of the collection consists of reptiles, fish, insects, crustacea, starfish and marine mollusca valued at about the same amount. The entire collection is to be offered at \$500, and should find a ready purchaser.

The small cuts of contributors to THE CONDOR, which were begun in the May-June issue, will be made a permanent feature of this magazine as opportunity permits. That the portraits of ornithologists are enjoyed by the readers of THE CONDOR is evident from the numerous letters received since the idea was inaugurated, and the magazine therefore takes pleasure in continuing to promote acquaintance among the fraternity.

A correspondent who has evidently been following Volume I of THE CONDOR carefully, informs us that a count shows a total of 85 papers presented by 35 contributors during 1899. When it is remembered that these papers represented original observations only, one may judge of the amount of new material put forth by the Cooper Club during the past year.



Official Minutes of Southern Division.

MAY

The Division met May 31 at the residence of F. S. Daggett. In the absence of the president and secretary, Mr. Daggett presided and Mr. C. A. Moody acted as secretary pro tem. Mr. Rising exhibited an egg of the California Vulture taken in the Santa Monica Mts. recently. A paper by John J. Williams of the Northern Di-

vision was read. It was voted that a committee of two be appointed to draw up and secure the passage, if possible, of an ordinance prohibiting the destruction of birds or their nests within the city limits of Pasadena. Also to devise methods of stirring up public sentiment through the press, public schools and elsewhere in this direction. Rev. F. Reiser rendered Mr. Lyman Belding's recent productions, "Songs of the Meadowlark" and "Thrush Songs of the Sierra" in a delightful manner upon the piano. The usual discussion and refreshments followed.

JUNE

The regular meeting of the Division was held June 29 at the studio of Roth Reynolds in Los Angeles, with Mr. McCormick in the chair and Lee Chambers acting as secretary pro tem. Eight members were present, with Dr. Corwin as a visitor. Mr. J. Eugene Law of Pomona was elected to active membership in the Club. The name of Mr. A. L. Lapham was proposed for membership to be acted upon one month hence. An interesting discussion of the museum question was had, Mr. Hahn, one of the committee, reporting. Mr. Reynolds followed on the same question and offered his studio as a Club museum.

LEE CHAMBERS, Secretary pro tem.

Official Minutes of Northern Division.

JULY

The Division met July 7 at the residence of Donald A. Cohen in Alameda, with eight members present and Mr. Forrest Hanford as a visitor. President Emerson presided. The following were elected to active membership in the Club: Messrs. J. O. Snyder, Walter K. Fisher and Robt. E. Bruce of Stanford University and James M. Hyde of Palo Alto. A standing committee consisting of Messrs. E. K. Taylor, D. A. Cohen and W. O. Emerson was appointed to confer with the Sportsmen Protective Association this fall with reference to securing the passage of proper laws protecting wild birds not already afforded protection by the statutes. The following papers were read: "Notes on the Long-billed Curlew," by P. M. Silloway; "The Northwest Crow," by J. H. Bowles. Mr. Barlow then outlined the results of an expedition made by three of the members of the Cooper Club to the higher Sierras in June, and exhibited a number of skins and photographs by way of illustration. The Division adjourned to meet next at Santa Clara September 8.

C. BARLOW, Secretary.



A. W. ANTHONY, who during the last year has been mining in Plumas County, sailed from Portland May 24, for Nome City, where he has been engaged to work mining claims.