

THE CONDOR.

Bulletin of the

COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB OF CALIFORNIA.

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This issue of *The Condor* was mailed Sept. 15.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Growth of the Cooper Club Retrospection is the means by which we sometimes measure our progress, and since the Cooper Ornithological Club has grown to be one of the leading factors in Californian ornithology and its advancement, it is interesting to note its growth, which has been unflinching steady during the past few years. The organization of the club dates back to June, 1893, when four young ornithologists conceived the idea of forming a Club, which was done and, as with similar small organizations, its life was several times in the balance, but through the energy of its promoters it finally gained a secure foothold and began its growth, which later developments have shown was destined to result in the collecting into one association of almost the entire ornithological strength of California.

Its first four years of existence was marked by a wavering growth, according to the efforts put forth by its members to interest others in the work, and January 1898 showed a total enrollment of 77 members. The books of the secretary since that date give forth the following interesting figures:

Membership January, 1898.....	77
New members added.....	7
Members dropped.....	7
Net gain for 1898.....	0
Membership January 1899.....	77
New members added.....	18
Members dropped.....	10
Net gain for 1899.....	8
Membership January 1900.....	85
Members added So. Div.....	8
Members added No. Div.....	14
Gain for 1900.....	22
Total membership Sept. 1900.....	107

The increase for 1900, with the year but three-fourths gone, is something more than 20 per cent. of the total membership. When it is remembered that the ornithologists of California are more or less widely scattered, one may appreciate the wide field which is covered by the Cooper Club membership. A provision of the Club's constitution that a member must be a bona fide resident of the state at the time of election, has brought into the Club only those who are actively engaged in ornithological research.

Owing to its late receipt, we are obliged to omit an excellent photograph of the nest and eggs of Clarke's Nutcracker by Mr. W. H. Parker, which should have illustrated his paper in this issue. This will be published separately in an early issue of *THE CONDOR*.

It is now reasonably certain that by the next session of the California State Legislature the Cooper Ornithological Club, through its able member, Senator Edw. K. Taylor, of Alameda, will have prepared a sweeping bird protection bill for the consideration of California's law makers. Senator Taylor, himself an able attorney, is in a position to judge of the constitutionality of various protective laws and to model the proposed bill so that it may be without flaw when it is presented for consideration.

The forceful paper presented by Mr. Reynolds before the Southern Division on "Facts, and the Use We Make of Them" will prove a thrust to many workers who have, perhaps, never doubted the value of the scientific work they are pursuing. There is undoubtedly much field work done each year which is practically valueless, insofar as it affects the sum total of our knowledge; specimens are amassed, with little or no attempt at investigation. Mr. Reynolds points out that in engaging in such work the student is not employing his time to the best advantage, and the ideal line of work suggested by Mr. Reynolds will bear careful reading.

The Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture has issued Circulars Nos. 28 and 29 dealing with the protection and importation of birds as directed in the Lacey Act which was approved by Congress May 25 last. The terms of this act placed the preservation, distribution, introduction and restoration of game and other birds under the Department of Agriculture, and Secretary Wilson has, in turn, given the matter into the charge of the Biological Survey, and correspondence should be addressed to the Chief of the Survey. Parties contemplating the interstate shipment of wild birds or others should familiarize themselves with the text of this act, as in many cases such shipments, heretofore unprohibited, become violations of the law. Circulars and information are furnished by the Biological Survey upon application.

H. R. Taylor, associate editor of *THE CONDOR*, was one of the successful contestants in the recent short-story contest of the *Black Cat*, in which a large number of manuscripts were submitted.