

THE CONDOR.

Bulletin of the

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This issue of *The Condor* was mailed Nov. 16.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The A. O. U. We learn from an excellent edi-
Associate torial in *Bird-Lore* for October
Membership that the American Ornithologists'
Union Congress and a conference
of representatives of the Audubon Societies
will meet simultaneously in Cambridge, Mass.
about Nov. 12, the idea being to promote a
closer unity between the two associations, such
as should exist between the parent and pupil,
the editorial pointing out that the Audubon
Societies' object is "to arouse interest in the
study of birds, in short to make ornithologists,"
while "it is the province of the A. O. U. to en-
roll them in its membership, after the school
day period has passed, and sustain their inter-
est which comes from association with
others having kindred tastes." All of which
will meet the approval of ornithologists gener-
ally.

The editorial mentioned quotes from Mr.
McGregor's communication in the July-August
CONDOR (p. 93) in which Mr. McGregor sug-
gests the separation into two classes, of the
associate membership of the A. O. U., one to
include *bona fide* amateur ornithologists, the
other to take in those who have affiliated them-
selves with the Union as merely a step of pro-
gression, with no thought of engaging in
technical work. *Bird-Lore* commends the
idea, but at the same time counsels fairness of
opinion between the technical ornithologists
and the purely Audubonian membership.

We believe frankly that such adverse feeling
as may exist between these more or less widely
divergent branches of the associate membership
of the A. O. U.,—be it either imaginary or *de
facto* is due as much to the uncompromising

spirit of many of the Audubonians as to that of
the active bird men. For several years past
Coast ornithologists at least, have viewed the
Audubonians as a class unalterably opposed to
the killing of birds. This sentiment cropped
out strongly when Dr. Coues edited the mem-
orable *Osprey*, at which time general condem-
nation was heaped upon those writers who
mentioned "takes" of either birds or eggs in
their articles.

The condemnation was justified in a few
cases, but the circumstance impressed many as
being a campaign of opera glass vs. gun, with
judgment and fairness omitted. Thus we be-
lieve that the 'amateur ornithological' class
have dealt as kindly as they have been dealt
with. It must be considered that in the West,
especially, the taking of birds is a necessity to
work out the various geographical variations,
and the occasions arise for the collecting of a
much greater number of birds than might be
deemed justifiable in the East. Those on the
ground must perforce judge of these conditions.

Should the associate membership of the A.
O. U. eventually be divided into two classes as
suggested, it is highly desirable that harmony
prevail, but it is unreasonable to hint that the
fault lies more with the technical ornithologists
than elsewhere. Both classes are doing good
work but differ as to method, and the "mutual
respect" suggested by *Bird-Lore* can come
about only by each class being allowed its proper
freedom. The separation of the A. O. U. asso-
ciate membership into two classes, as primarily
suggested by Mr. McGregor, seems more or
less certain to be brought about in the near
future. *Bird-Lore* suggests that a class of
"senior associates" limited to 100, be created.
This would probably be sufficient and we shall
hope to see such action taken.

Cooper For a long time it has been an
Club's acknowledged fact that California
Bird has not possessed protective bird
laws, aside from its game laws, worthy
Bill the name. At present a few laws
grace the statute books intended to protect a
limited category of birds, which are designated
in a very general way as English skylarks, ori-
oles, wild canaries, cranes (meaning herons)
etc. It seems very doubtful if such a law
would hold in a test case and little or no effort
has been made to enforce it.

Accordingly the necessity and advisability
for more stringent protective laws have arisen
and it seems not inappropriate that the fight
should be taken up by the Cooper Ornithologi-
cal Club, since its efforts are and have been
closely allied with the progress of ornithology
in the State in recent years. This course has
therefore been decided upon, and the sweeping
bird protection bill which Senator E. K. Taylor
will champion in the State Legislature in Janu-
ary, is to be given final consideration at the
November meetings of both divisions of the
Club.

The bill will then have been perfected, as
viewed from any reasonable standpoint, and
the concerted action of the Club's membership
will be called into play in the matter of urging
favorable action upon the part of the various

county representatives. The action of the Cooper Ornithological Club will receive the support of the League of American Sportsmen, an organization ever ready to wield its influence for the enactment of protective laws.

A clause prohibiting the indiscriminate use of poison by orchardists as a means of destroying noxious birds, the necessity of which is pointed out by Mr. Daggett's communication in this issue, will become a part of the bill, and every reasonable concession will be granted the agriculturist who can show that he suffers material damage from any certain bird species.

Many a meritorious movement has gone down to defeat and many a good fight has been fought for principle without direct result, but the proposed bill has been prepared in good faith and no stone will be left unturned to secure its passage. With such an earnest advocate behind it as Senator Taylor, it is reasonable to confidently anticipate the successful passage of the bill, and the text as finally prepared, will be given space in the January CONDOR.

With this issue THE CONDOR closes its second volume with the feeling that congratulations are in order both upon the part of the management and of its subscribers. It scarcely seems that we have occupied the field for two full years, but such is the case. Volume I was accorded a generous reception by the fraternity and Volume II has exceeded it in size and also in the point of its illustrations. It has been found that twenty-four pages was the very smallest size in which the magazine could be gotten out in justice to western ornithology, and accordingly this has become the standard size of THE CONDOR.

With the realization that this journal afforded a prompt means of publication, western workers have patronized it freely, and it has served as the channel through which have flowed the most interesting and valuable productions of Californian and western ornithologists. We believe that the journal has firmly established itself among ornithologists who appreciate the fact that THE CONDOR is the exponent of a live Club of over 100 members, with solid backing.

The editors feel that it is unnecessary to indulge in promises for the third volume of the magazine, for its subscribers have taken its measure and know reasonably well what to expect. The continued support of old patrons is solicited, and those who have not known the magazine are invited to enroll themselves as subscribers. With the closing of the year, the editors desire to return thanks to many members of the Club as well as outsiders who have assisted in the work of making THE CONDOR a success.

An index for Volume II will be mailed with the January issue, Mr. McGregor having kindly consented to perform the office of indexer, which he did in such excellent form for Volume I. Subscribers whose subscriptions expire with this issue will be understood as wishing the magazine continued, unless notice is mailed the publishers to the contrary.

The announcement made in THE CONDOR during the latter part of 1899 that the Club would begin the publication of a series of special papers, separate and apart from THE CONDOR, has reached its fulfillment in the appearance of Mr. Joseph Grinnell's *Birds of the Kotzebue Sound Region, Alaska*. As was announced at the time, THE CONDOR in its regular course of publication has not been able to do entire justice to the volume of material which has been submitted, with the result that the Club has found it necessary to expand in order to meet the conditions which confront it.

The title of *Pacific Coast Avifauna* has been selected under which to publish these separate papers, and the Club may well congratulate itself that the series is inaugurated with such an excellent paper as the present one by Mr. Grinnell. Several other papers intended for the series are in process, and with the extended and careful work which is being done on the coast, it is certain that the *Pacific Coast Avifauna* will be possessed of no uncertain value to ornithologists.

THE CONDOR, it is believed, enjoys the distinction of presenting the first published photographs of the nesting site and the egg *in situ* of the California Condor, the photographs accompanying Mr. Gedney's article in this issue having, by good fortune, been secured at a nesting site which was accessible to the collector, and which permitted the use of the camera. Mr. Gedney is to be congratulated upon his novel photographs, while this magazine once more modestly asserts its claim of publishing the latest and freshest bird news in the West.



Donald A. Cohen is the author of a series of "bird talks" in the Alameda *Argus*, each chapter having the true bird protection ring. All such writings help to mould public sentiment in favor of the birds, and every ornithologist can do a good work by contributing to his local paper along this line.

John O. Snyder of Stanford University has returned with Dr. David Starr Jordan from an expedition into Japanese waters, where an extensive collection of fishes was made for the University. Mr. Snyder also made some interesting observations on the birds met on the trip and of which we hope to hear later.

On Oct. 2 Mr. Charles A. Keeler delivered an address before the Section of Ornithology of the Academy of Sciences entitled "A Popular Talk on Birds."

Ralph Arnold of Stanford University has recently completed the work of mapping the Black Mountain region for the U. S. Geological Survey.

J. F. Illingworth, formerly of Claremont, Cal. is enrolled at Stanford University and is incidentally doing some bird work.