

PACIFIC COAST AVIFAUNA NO II is a neatly composed "List of the Land Birds of Santa Cruz County, California." The author, R. C. McGregor, has not only drawn from his own field observations, but has also incorporated the notes of several others who have collected in the county. All available published accounts are made use of, as well; so that we may consider this list to enumerate all the species ever found within the county. The authorities quoted are always carefully cited in footnotes, while pleasing conservatism is shown in the treatment of doubtful records. The annotations are mostly brief, consisting of nesting and migration dates, comparative abundance, distribution, etc.

The nomenclature presented in this paper strikes one as too much of an improvement on the A. O. U. Checklist. Nearly every lately proposed change is adopted without question. The discrimination by name of such closely allied "genera" as *Nuttallornis* and *Horizopus* seems to us rather more of a burden than convenience. We also note that there is a confusing instability in the use of vernacular names. The millenium of permanency in nomenclature seems further off than ever!

The "Introduction" includes a brief but valuable account of the "Faunal Position of Santa Cruz County," by W. K. Fisher. *Avifauna No. II* is certainly an important addition to the ornithological literature of the State.—J. G.



So staid an ornithologist as Richard C. McGregor has, for a time, forsaken his trays of bird skins, the scalpel and the rule to pay tribute to Cupid. On Wednesday, April 10, Mr. McGregor was united in marriage to Mrs. Edith M. French of Palo Alto, the ceremony being performed in the presence of a few intimate friends in San Francisco. Miss Josie Hart attended the bride, while Chas. M. Mannon acted as groomsman. Mr. McGregor's ornithological *confreres* extend to him and his bride a goodly measure of well wishes, and trust that his already active work in ornithology will be augmented by this acquisition of a helpmeet.

That the zealous ornithologist is sometimes misjudged by an unsympathetic public, Donald A. Cohen, the well-known Alameda ornithologist can testify. Toward the latter part of March, in company with a fish-basket of generous dimensions, Mr. Cohen and his brother, a camera artist, wheeled through the town of Haywards, *en route* to the aerie of a Prairie Falcon in the near-by hills. It so happens that the trout season in California opens on April 1, and a watchful peace officer, concluding that a fish-basket thus early in the

season augured evil, followed the naturalists a warm, lengthy and interesting chase, only to have the utility of the fish-basket to the oologist explained to him most courteously at the end of the chase!

Ornithologists will hail with satisfaction the announcement that the Smithsonian Institution will complete the Life Histories of North American Birds, begun by the late Major Chas. E. Bendire who completed two volumes before his death. Dr. W. L. Ralph, Honorary Curator of the Department of Oology and a close personal friend of Major Bendire, will have charge of the work and has issued requests for notes on the life history and nesting habits of A. O. U. species and subspecies No. 514 to 63 inclusive, which will embrace the third volume of this superb work. Dr. Ralph's field experience doubtless renders him the most available person to take up the uncompleted work of Major Bendire, and he should be accorded every assistance by field workers in the West who possess, in some cases, almost exclusive notes concerning many little-known species.



#### THE PROPER NAME FOR THE KADIAK SAVANNA SPARROW.

Bonaparte's *Passerculus anthinus* is from "Kadiak, Russian America." *Compte Rendu*, Dec. 1853, p. 920. It is compared with *Passerculus alaudinus*, described on p. 918 from "California," as being very similar but with more slender beak, head suffused with yellow, and beneath pale rufescent, more spotted. It has been suggested that the localities of *anthinus* and *alaudinus* might have been transposed (Baird, Brewer and Ridgway, *Hist. N. Am. Bds.* I, 1874, p. 539, foot-note.); but this idea is refuted by Ridgway (*Proc. U. S. N. M.* VII, 1884, p. 517, foot-note).

However inapplicable Bonaparte's description may be to the race breeding on Kadiak Island, the fact that the type ostensibly came from there seems to make it desirable to use Bonaparte's name instead of *xanthophrys* proposed by me in the CONDOR (III, Jan. 1901, p. 21). The Kadiak Savanna Sparrow therefore becomes *Ammodramus sandwicensis anthinus* (Bonaparte).

JOSEPH GRINNELL.