

THE CONDOR.

Bulletin of the

COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB OF CALIFORNIA.

Published bi-monthly at Santa Clara, Cal., in the interests
and as Official Organ of the Club.

CHESTER BARLOW, Santa Clara, Cal.,
Editor and Business Manager.

WALTER K. FISHER, Stanford University Cal.

HOWARD ROBERTSON, Box 55, Sta. A., Los Angeles.
Associates.

Subscription, (in advance) - - - One Dollar a Year.
Single Copies, - - - - - 25 Cents.
Six Copies or more of one issue, - - 12½ Cents Each.
Foreign Subscription, - - - - - \$1.25.
Free to Honorary Members and to Active Members not
in arrears for dues.

Advertising rates will be sent on application.

Advertisements and subscriptions should be sent to the
Business Managers.

Exchanges should be sent to the Editor-in-Chief.

Entered at the Santa Clara Post-office as second class
matter.

This issue of The Condor was mailed May, 15.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Bird Protection Bill The sweeping Bird Protection Bill projected in the recent California legislature by the Cooper Ornithological Club, and known as Senate Bill 114, has failed to become a law. It was reasonably expected that a bill of this nature, having successfully buffeted the adversities of both houses of the legislature, would receive the governor's sanction and consequently become a law, but in this instance bird protectionists were doomed to disappointment and upon Governor Gage alone rests the odium of relegating California to its former position of a non-protective bird state.

This was the first concerted effort to place California on a bird protection plane, and that all concerned with the bill labored faithfully and well is a matter of general knowledge. The bill, with but little substitution, passed both houses of the legislature and few doubted that the governor would add his signature and approval to the proposed statute, the sole possible effect of which would have been for public good. However, for some inscrutable reason, the bill was permitted to suffer the "pocket veto." Thus it becomes apparent that California's governor has no appreciation of measures which savor of the æsthetic. He has evidently not kept pace with the work of bird protectionists in the United States, and considers such movements but lightly if at all.

To bewail the short-sightedness of the governor at this juncture is a waste of both words and energy. The fact remains, that the Cooper Club through its able member, Senator E. K. Taylor, prepared and carried to success-

ful completion the only thorough bird protection bill which has yet been considered by the California legislature. Practically the *entire* credit for the successful handling of the bill rests with Senator Taylor, whose legislative work was marked throughout by a combination of brilliancy, energy and conscientiousness. His effective efforts not only carried the bill through the Senate but practically through the Assembly as well, and to him the bird protection forces of California may well look for a legislative leader.

The failure of the bill may be attributed to a variety of sources, the true one being best explained by the governor providing he could be persuaded to become communicative. The most plausible inference is that the governor feared to act in the face of the considerable opposition developed by the bill in the legislature. This opposition, it should be understood, was but the natural outcome of placing such a sweeping bill before a legislative body, many members of which had little or no idea of the scope of the proposed measure, if indeed they could give a comprehensive definition of bird protection. In the face of such conditions Senator Taylor's work is the more remarkable.

The killing of this measure permits vandals to slaughter songsters and non-game birds as before, and the hordes of ignorant foreigners may continue to snare all manner of wild birds, which vicious and destructive practice has already been pointed out in the columns of this journal. It is indeed lamentable that the chief executive of a state, rich in its bird life as is California, should disregard a plea backed by scientists, fruit-growers and the public alike. The result is disappointing, but bird-protectionists may still accomplish much valuable local work, and recruit their forces for another effort two years hence.

Several months having elapsed since the initial numbers of at least two bird magazines were given the public, with no subsequent issues to bridge the gap, we may naturally infer that January has proven an unpropitious month in which to launch such publications, or at least this assumption seems applicable to the two journals in question. Such occurrences—all too frequent of late years—tend to shake public confidence in the stability of new magazines, while publishers may justly reserve the "glad hand" until they know whether their "congratulations" are to concern one lonely number,—or more.

It is true that every magazine must have its beginning, and all publishing efforts, if they be characterized by regularity of issue, become entitled to the confidence and patronage of the ornithological fraternity. Numerous magazines are unpretentiously piling up volumes to their credit, and we may cite the *Wilson Bulletin*, *The Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society* and *Notes on Rhode Island Ornithology* as examples of publications which are accomplishing praiseworthy work in their given fields. Ornithologists, and even the much-abused bibliographer, are ready to

concede the right of existence to any periodical which will appear with reasonable regularity and promptness, but both patronage and sympathy are largely lacking for the "slow," magazine, while the tendency is unmistakable that it should be entirely withheld from the "one-number" class of bird journals.



Official Minutes of Northern Division.

ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY.

The Division met at the residence of E. H. Skinner, San Jose, Cal. Jan. 12, with thirteen members present and M. P. Anderson as a visitor. The program of the evening was first given as follows:—Talk, "The Distribution of Certain Bird Races in California" by Joseph Grinnell, illustrated by drawings; Talk, "Introduced Birds in the Hawaiian Islands," R. C. McGregor, exemplified by skins. Five previously proposed members were made active members, as follows:—F. H. Fowler, R. E. Snodgrass and J. F. Illingworth of Palo Alto; J. S. Burcham of Stanford University and M. P. Anderson of Menlo Park. The annual election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Joseph Grinnell; Vice President, H. R. Taylor; Secretary, C. Barlow; Treasurer, D. A. Cohen.

At the juncture of Mr. Emerson's retiring from the chair Mr. H. R. Taylor arose and presented him with a testimonial from the Division for his noteworthy administration. The following names were proposed for active membership; Chas. M. Mannon and C. A. Love of San Francisco and A. C. Herre of Palo Alto. Mr. Emerson addressed the meeting urging the appointment of a Bird Protection Committee within the Club, suggesting fifteen members from each Division. The motion was passed and a complete list of committeemen will be found on another page.

Resolutions were passed combining the office of business manager with that of the editor, who is empowered to collect and expend all Club funds. The meeting now adjourned to a banquet where addresses were delivered by ex-president Emerson on "A Retrospect of 1900" and by President Grinnell on "The Outlook for 1901."

An adjourned meeting of the Club was held on the morning of Jan. 13 with nine members in attendance. A Program Committee was created, to consist of three members. On motion the acting president was constituted Executive Committee of the Club. A committee of three was appointed to draft a new constitution and by-laws, it being suggested that the annual dues be made \$2, beginning with 1902. Other committees were retained. The president made the following announcements:—Committee on Constitution, R. C. McGregor (Chairman); E. H. Skinner and T. J. Hoover, Program Committee, J. O. Snyder (Chairman), W. K. Fisher and F. H. Fowler; Editor and Business Manager, C. Barlow; Associate Editor, Walter K. Fisher.

MARCH.

The bi-monthly meeting was held at the home of W. Otto Emerson at Haywards, March 2 with eighteen members present and Joseph Grinnell presiding. Under the election of active members the following were added to the roll: Chas. M. Mannon, San Francisco; C. A. Love, San Francisco; A. C. Herre, Palo Alto; R. N. Diggles, Palo Alto; Prof. Vernon L. Kellogg, Stanford University; Geo. Coleman, Stanford; Leon Hottel, Napa; Verna Dresser, Pismo; Wm. N. Ingram, Pacific Grove; H. M. Holland, San Diego; Cha. Littlejohn, Redwood City; H. R. Johnson, Palo Alto; Geo. H. Sharpe, Vacaville; M. French Gilman, Banning; W. F. Dean, Three Rivers; Prof. W. E. Ritter, Berkeley; Miss Ellen Mathews, Stanford; Miss Lillian M. Julien, Yreka; Miss Bertha L. Chapman, Oakland; Miss Bertha F. Herrick, Oakland and Miss Helen Swett, Alameda.

Chas. M. Mannon was invited to address the meeting on the proposition of the Club becoming incorporated. On motion a committee was ordered named by the president to draft suitable resolutions and to have matters in readiness to proceed with the work of incorporation at a special meeting to be called by the president. In anticipation of this action, the constitution committee was discharged. Mr. Mannon was extended a vote of thanks for his lucid presentation of the matter.

The program of the evening was taken up. A paper on "Two Years with Mexican Birds" by E. H. Skinner was read. Walter K. Fisher gave a talk on "Life Zones," and was followed with remarks by Walter E. Bryant. A paper entitled "Eggs from American Barn Owls in Captivity" was read by Donald A. Cohen. Mr. Grinnell read a paper entitled "Extracts from Publications Concerning Early Californian Ornithology." On motion the meeting adjourned, to meet next at Stanford University on May 4.

MAY.

An open meeting was held in the lecture-room at Stanford University May 4, with large attendance. Jno. O. Snyder delivered a brief talk styled "A Day With the Birds of Tampico, Mexico." Robert E. Snodgrass spoke at length on "The Galapagos Islands," dealing with their general features. Edmund Heller followed with a talk on "Galapagos Birds."

A committee was appointed to prepare a draft of new constitution to be presented at the next meeting. The names of Miss Ora Boring of Palo Alto, Willis H. Jackson of Pescadero, H. R. Noack of Berkeley, J. S. Appleton of Simi and P. C. Mitchell of Downey were proposed for active membership. A communication from Frank S. Daggett recommending the formation of chapters in the Club was read and favorably received. The July meeting will be held at Santa Clara.

C. BARLOW, Secretary.

