

THE CONDOR.

Bulletin of the

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Tenth Supplement to the A. O. U. Check-List appears in the July *Auk* and ornithologists may again breathe freely, including also the describers of new subspecies, whose feathered idols have been relegated to that bourne whence they seldom return. But seriously speaking, the supplement contains numerous changes in nomenclature and a goodly array of new species and subspecies finds place upon the list. The list of non-accepted species and subspecies is surprisingly large, but one must feel it impossible to comprehend upon which certain characters one subspecies is accepted and another rejected. We note surprising action in the case of *Pipilo fuscus carolæ* MCGREGOR, described in THE CONDOR (I, 1899, p. 11). Mr. McGregor subsequently pointed out that the type was a bird in freshly-acquired fall plumage, and that the alleged race should be relegated to synonymy (*Pac. Coast Avifauna*, 1901, p. 15), but instead has occurred the unfortunate action of giving the subspecies a place on the check-list. It is not, therefore, surprising that the lay ornithologist should marvel at the mysteries of our check-list.

An editorial in *The Osprey* for May comments upon the inaptness of the use of bird names as titles of magazines devoted to ornithology. This is a conclusion which every thinking person must have evolved who has endeavored to solve the relationship of *Plautus impennis*, of *Botaurus lentiginosus*—habitus of the marsh— or of our western *Gymnogyps*—proud and majestic though he may be—to the various magazines bearing these birds'

common and more euphonious cognomens. The association of any of these names with the magazines bearing them suggests nothing, and this being an age of progression, we shall expect to see our contemporary adopt its own sensible advice and head the reform movement. The editorial in question suggests such titles as *The Wilsonia*, *The Audubonia*, etc., as being properly applicable to the American bird magazine.

We had expected to present several half-tones of interesting Galapagos bird subjects in this issue, but the lateness of arrival of the expedition and consequent delay in developing the numerous negatives secured, precludes the appearance of the anticipated cuts until our September issue. Messrs. Beck and Adams will also contribute articles to THE CONDOR touching on the Galapagos fauna and their visit to that interesting spot,—Guadalupe Island.

We bow a gracious acknowledgment to Lieut. Jno. W. Daniel Jr., who recently attested his faith in THE CONDOR by enclosing a \$5 bill, covering the current volume and four years' advance subscription.



SAVE THE BIRDS' STOMACHS.

We would earnestly request members of the Cooper Ornithological Club who collect birds' skins to have the bird render a double value to science by preserving the stomachs for examination. As is generally known the Department of Agriculture is engaged in determining the foods of various birds, upon which results are based bulletins of great economic value. Prof. F. E. L. Beal is at this time engaged in collecting stomachs in California and at the request of this magazine submits the following suggestions for those who may care to undertake the work:

"The Biological Survey is desirous of procuring the stomachs of birds for the purpose of investigating their food habits. In furtherance of this object it solicits the cooperation of the ornithologists of California and requests that they preserve the stomachs (gizzards and crops) of such birds as they may collect. The Survey will furnish on application blank schedules for recording data, tags for numbering the stomachs and franked envelopes for mailing. When collected, the stomachs should be placed in alcohol or formalin for at least a week. Before forwarding to the Department they should be taken out and dried for half an hour or so; then placed in a baking powder can or cigar box, wrapped with a franked envelope on the outside and mailed. In order to reimburse the collector for the outlay for alcohol etc., the sum of five cents will be paid for each stomach sent in."