

## ACTION OF THE A. O. U. ON MEMBERSHIP.

[Special dispatch to THE CONDOR.]

"NEW YORK, N. Y., Nov. 12, 1901.

"Grinnell, Beal, Bishop, O. Bangs and T. S. Palmer elected Fellows.

WALTER K. FISHER."

The American Ornithologists' Union held its business meeting in New York Monday evening, Nov. 11 and as shown by the above advice, has added five additional names to its list of Fellows. It should be remembered that the former active membership of the Union is now designated as Fellows. It is expected that a new class of 50 Active Members to be elected from the present associate membership will be created, but no action had evidently been taken up to the date of the above telegram. Ornithologists will appreciate the fact that so substantial an addition has been made to the Fellowship of the Union, while Californians' warmly hail the recognition shown Mr. Joseph Grinnell by his election.



## GENERAL NEWS NOTES.

Walter K. Fisher, Associate Editor of THE CONDOR is visiting his home in Washington, D. C., where he will remain until Jan. 1. It is not unlikely that Mr. Fisher will grasp many Eastern ideas in magazine publishing, which will later reflect improvements in THE CONDOR.

A new land tortoise is described in the October number of *Novitates Zoologicae* by Hon. Walter Rothschild as *Testudo becki* in honor of its collector, Mr. Rollo H. Beck. Its habitat is given as Cape Berkeley, the northern point of Albemarle Island, Galapagos Archipelago. The tortoise was taken on the recent Beck-Adams expedition to the islands.

Mr. Otto Holstein of Cline, Texas records a curiously located wren's nest. It was built in the hook of a semaphore signal placed there for the purpose of hanging a semaphore light at night. The distance from the ground was 40 feet and the semaphore arms were used on an average of fifteen times a day, jarring the pole each time. The nest held one egg when found but had to be removed to accommodate the lamp.

Willis H. Jackson of Pescadero, Cal., records a nest of the Barn Swallow on Aug. 21 containing three eggs, the birds having previously reared two broods for the season. Also on Sept. 23 he discovered a nest of the California Partridge containing ten eggs on which the female bird was setting. The eggs were partially dried up and the parent bird must have patiently set on them from the time they were laid.

W. W. Price will conduct his usual winter excursion of zoologists this year, the chosen route being through the canyons of the Colorado River from Needles, Cal., to Yuma, Ariz., a distance of 350 miles. The party will leave Needles about Dec. 20 and some fifteen days will be consumed in making the trip, which will doubtless prove most interesting under Mr. Price's direction.

The Nineteenth Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union convened at the American Museum of Natural History in New York on November 12 for a three days session. Although the programme has not reached the Coast up to the present writing, an array of able papers and discussions is assured, such as makes each annual meeting of the Union memorable to those who attend. The interesting business feature of the Congress will be the election of several new Fellows and the inauguration of the new Active Membership, consisting of 50 ornithologists from the ranks of the present associate list. THE CONDOR hopes to receive advice of the result by wire, and to announce it in the present issue.

As we go to press another Galapagos expedition is being outfitted under the supervision of Rollo H. Beck, who will be the ornithologist in charge. The schooner *Mary Sachs* has been chartered and the party will sail about Nov. 15. It is expected that all of the islands will be visited and a special study will be made of the tortoise question. The summit of Narborough Island will be carefully explored, it being a region that has not been worked in recent years. It is also the intention of Mr. Beck to collect as far as practicable specimens of all the breeding land birds with their nests. A gasoline launch will aid materially in visiting many of the islands which adverse currents and winds sometime make it difficult to reach.